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# THE TIMES

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MONDAY APRIL 19 1999

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ALL  
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## The Times Good University Guide

Today: Britain's most popular universities

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BOOKS FOR SCHOOLS TOKEN, PAGE 26

SPORT ON 16 PAGES

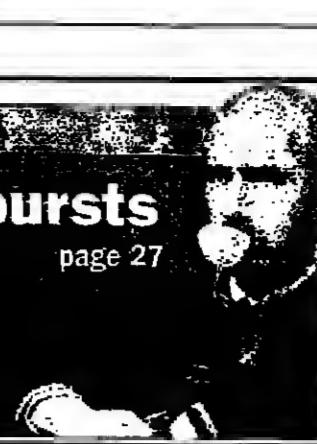
## Chelsea's bubble bursts

LONDON MARATHON

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30p  
EVERY  
WEEKDAY

35

TOMORROW: FANTASY LEAGUE FOOTBALL

A Nato raid on a chemicals plant is threatening the Serb capital, reports Tom Walker in Belgrade

AN ecological disaster appeared to be unfolding yesterday after Nato deliberately bombed a combined petrochemicals, fertiliser and refinery complex on the banks of the Danube in the northern outskirts of Belgrade.

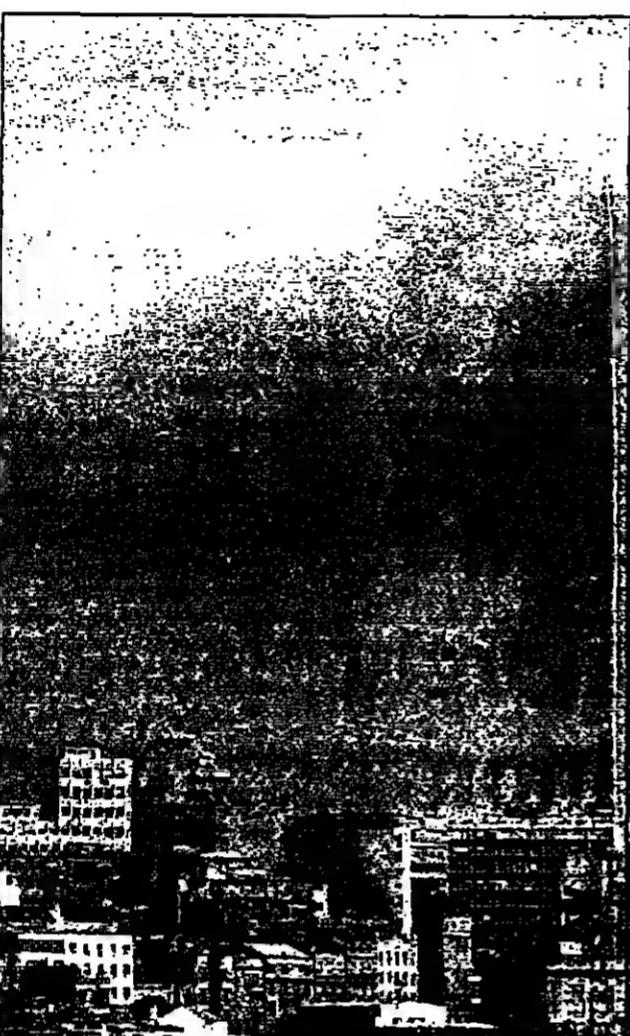
A series of detonations that shook the whole city early yesterday sent a deeply toxic cloud of smoke and gases hundreds of feet into the night sky. In the opaque dawn the choking cloud could be seen spreading over the entire northern skyline.

Among the deadly cocktail of chemicals billowing over hundreds of thousands of homes were the nerve gas phosgene, chlorine and hydrochloric acid. As workers at the industrial complex in Pančevo panicked, they decided to release tons of ether dichloride, a powerful carcinogen into the Danube, rather than risk seeing it blown up.

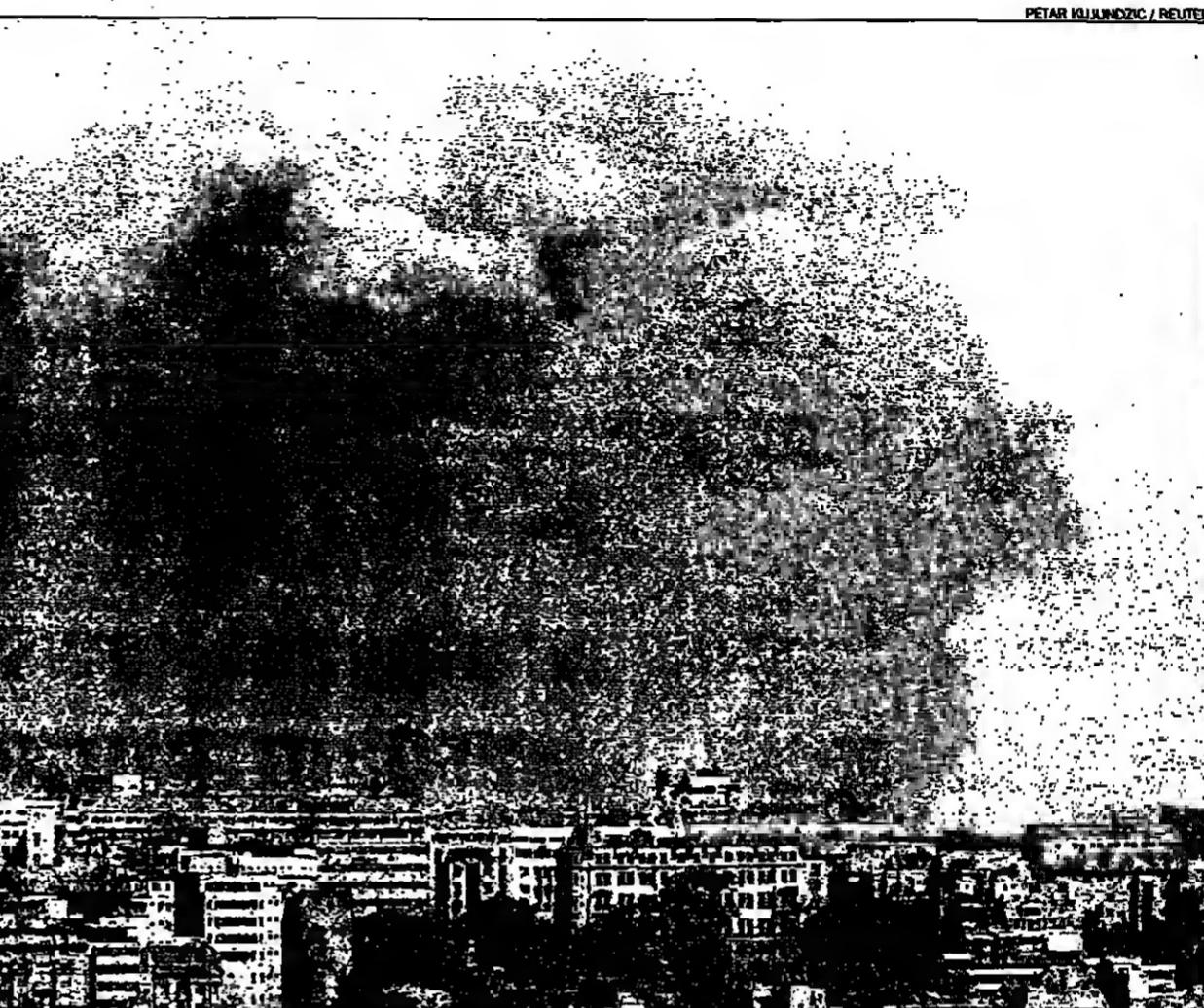
At least three missile strikes left large areas of the plant crippled and oil and petrol from the damaged refinery area also coursed into the river, forming slicks up to 12 miles long. Temperatures inside the collapsing plant were said to have risen to over 1,000C.

Nato said that the oil refinery and chemicals complex had been destroyed by a heavy air attack in the early hours of yesterday. Asked about the hazard from chemical smoke, Nato said there was "a lot more smoke coming from burning villages in Kosovo".

Belgrade scientists told people to stay indoors and to avoid any fish caught in the



A towering cloud of toxic gases looms over Belgrade after warplanes, on the 25th night of the Nato onslaught, hit a petrochemicals plant in the northern outskirts of the city



Danube, which, they said, would soon be dead. They said the pollution would spread downstream to Romania and Bulgaria and then into the Black Sea.

At least 50 residents of Pančevo were reported suffering from nerve gas poisoning and the Health Ministry was struggling to find gas masks to distribute in the suburb and surrounding areas. In the meantime, residents were told to breathe through scarves soaked in sodium bicarbonate as a precaution against showers of nitric acid.

Thirteen hours after the first of the explosions, the Yugoslav Army took journalists to Pančevo just as a thunderstorm broke over the stricken complex. Bolts of lightning shot behind the flames licking the charcoal sky in almost apocalyptic scenes.

As the director tried to hold a press conference in the fertiliser plant's headquarters offices, pines of glass and other fixtures loosened by the earlier blasts began falling from the building.

The driving rain and sudden gusts of wind only increased the smoke and brought the toxic gases down from the higher atmospheric levels where they had been considered relatively safe. This plant is 37 years old

and this is our worst nightmare," said Miralem Dzindo as the flames reflected off the windows in the conference room.

On the wall was a piece of modern art depicting churches against a sky as crimson and infernal as that outside. "The sickness of the minds that did this to us is enormous. By taking away our fertiliser they stop us growing food, and then they try to poison us as well." He rejected journalists' questions about chemical weapons, saying that the plant was strictly non-military.

Mr Dzindo said a worse disaster had been only narrowly avoided: an airstrike three nights ago had grazed a tank containing 20,000 tons of liquid ammonia. If that had gone up in flames, he said, much of Belgrade would have been instantly poisoned.

Against the roar of thunder and the crackle of the burning oil refinery, the Serbian Ecology Minister, Dragoljub Jelović, accused Nato of trying to destroy the whole Yugoslav environment. He said the pollution in the Danube and in the atmosphere over Belgrade "knows no frontiers" and he warned neighbouring countries that the poison clouds could soon be with them.

## WAR REPORTS



The Serbs are digging in for a long war. They know the territory better than Nato and will have at least two months in which to plot the defence of Kosovo before the alliance is in any position to launch a land offensive. — 23

"The Serbs told us to get out and forced us to leave our possessions. They have burned down our house and we have nothing left" — a Kosovar Albanian family's flight mirrors the misery of thousands as Save the Children fly £27,000 of aid to Macedonia. — 23

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## Brixton bomber could strike again, police warn

BY STEWART TENDERL AND MICHAEL PATERSON

POLICE yesterday gave warning that the "vicious and reckless" criminal behind the nail-bomb attack on a South London market could strike again.

Senior police and ministers said that the bomber may have wanted to kill rather than maim his victims, and Scotland Yard has urged companies and shops throughout London to ensure that their security cameras are working in anticipation of another attack.

Police were given no warning of the bomb, which was left in a busy market in Brixton on Saturday afternoon, and no-one has claimed responsibility. The Yard has so far been unable to suggest a

motive for the attack. Two of the 40 victims treated in hospital have serious eye injuries, and a 23-month-old boy underwent an operation to remove a four-inch nail from his head.

Police, led by Detective Inspector Maureen Boyle, are studying film from security cameras around the market in Brixton Road and Electric Avenue for pictures of a blond man who witnesses say left the device in a bag about 5.20pm.

The Yard has appealed for more footage from cameras in the area and urged witnesses to come forward.

Jack Straw, the Home Secretary, said that the bombing was as "an outrageous act".

Joyce Chepchumba's victory in the women's race, in a time of 2hrs 23mins 22secs, came on a day when a record 31,582 runners started the 19th annual race, raising an estimated £15 million for charity.

Abdelkader El Mouaziz, aged 30, of Morocco, won the men's event in 2hrs 7mins 57secs.

The thousands of spectators lining the 26.2-mile

course also cheered the first couple to get married during the race Mike Gamblin, 46,

and Barbara Cole, 43, began the event dressed in their wedding clothes before stopping for the ceremony.

Rival runners, page 3

Marathon reports, page 29

Results, pages 42-44

## A record marathon

BY JOHN GOODBODY

A 28-YEAR-OLD Kenyan mother yesterday had the biggest payday for a single event in women's athletics history when she controversially earned £210,000 for winning the Flora London Marathon.

Joyce Chepchumba's victory in the women's race, in a time of 2hrs 23mins 22secs, came on a day when a record 31,582 runners started the 19th annual race, raising an estimated £15 million for charity.

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Rival runners, page 3

Marathon reports, page 29

Results, pages 42-44

## Back welfare state, Lilley to tell Tories

BY ROLAND WATSON, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

PETER LILLEY will this week tell the Conservative Party to abandon the "Holy Grail" of trying to use free-market economics to run Britain's schools and hospitals.

Mr Lilley, the Tories' deputy leader, will say that the party must turn its back on Thatcherite zeal, and support education and health services as publicly run and publicly funded systems.

He will say the party's "Achilles' heel" is that people don't trust the Tories to run public services because they believe the party wants to privatise them.

In a message that will alarm some quarters of the party, Mr Lilley will say: "Conservatives must renew public confidence

in our commitment to the welfare state just as Rab Butler [the former Cabinet minister] did. But we will only do so if we accept that the free market has only a limited role in improving public services like health, education and welfare."

He will insist that the party remains the party of the free market. "But we also have to recognise the limits of the free market." He will pledge the Tories to funding the NHS with public money, ruling out any large-scale switch to a system of private insurance.

Mr Lilley's address, fully endorsed by Mr Hague, will come when he delivers the Butler memorial lecture to the Coningsby society in London.

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Joyce Chepchumba salutes her big-money victory in yesterday's London marathon although her fellow Kenyan Tegla Loroupe, right, recorded a considerably faster time over the same distance on the same day in Rotterdam



## Winning woman nets \$350,000 purse

**Kenyan claims record prize with time rated as only 13th fastest race, report**

**David Powell and Adam Sherwin**

JUST who is the fastest female marathon runner on earth? The battle really begins after the exhausted finishers have passed through the finishing post.

The Kenyan runner Joyce Chepchumba earned \$350,000 (£233,000) after winning the Flora London Marathon yesterday in what the organisers deemed a world record — yet she did not even run the fastest marathon by a Kenyan woman on the day, or even the fastest by a woman on the London course. Her time was also three minutes slower than that posted by a Kenyan rival last year.

Chepchumba won a \$125,000 (£83,000) bonus for breaking the London marathon world record because the race organisers do not recognise times set by women in mixed races. According to the London marathon, a woman running among men is unfairly advantaged, or male-assisted; the chief offence being to run in between a group of men and get dragged along in their slipstream.

When Chepchumba pulled away to win, her time of two hours, 23

minutes and 22 seconds, ranked as only the 13th best for a woman on the all-time lists kept by the sport's statisticians.

But the London organisers have refused to acknowledge the time which all other marathons regard as world records: the 2hr 20min 47sec which Tegla Loroupe, Chepchumba's fellow Kenyan, ran in Rotterdam last year.

London marathon organisers believe that Loroupe's world mark was contrived because it was achieved in a mixed race and they say it should not be allowed. Given that the leading international men run marathons almost 20 minutes faster than the opposite sex, male pacemakers can assist them to fast times in various ways, such as by shielding them from the wind.

To add to the confusion, Loroupe was running again in Rotterdam

yesterday and finished in 2:22:48, a faster time than Chepchumba's big-earning win.

Tim Hutchings, the London race administrator, said at the Rotterdam marathon that it was unfair advantage. "Tegla was even being given encouragement by her (the race director) on a motorcycle riding behind her," Mr Hutchings said. "If we are going to say anything stands, we could cut the floor out of a double-decker bus, and let them run 26 miles inside that, while passing them drinks and mopping their brows."

To earn her \$125,000 record-breaking bonus, Chepchumba was merely set the task of beating the 2:23:24 record by Lida Simon, of Romania, in Osaka in January. She beat this target by just one second.

In taking its "pure" stand, the

### HOW THEY LINE UP

**Tegla Loroupe (Kenya)**  
Age: 25  
Height: 1.53 metres

Form: Set world record 2hr 21min 06s in Rotterdam Marathon, April 1998, to become the first African woman to set a world record in Olympic event.

Marital status: married, with one son, aged seven.

**Joyce Chepchumba (Kenya)**  
Age: 28  
Height: 1.63 metres

Form: Won the Chicago Marathon last October and achieved her second victory in the London Marathon yesterday.

Marital status: married, with one son, aged seven.

ba earned more from one marathon than any woman before her. She collected, on top of her appearance fee, a \$125,000 world record bonus, \$55,000 (£36,000) winner's purse, a \$25,000 (£16,000) bonus for breaking 2:24, and a \$25,000 course record bonus.

By 5pm more than 30,000 had done so, beating the record for finishers set last year at 29,924. A handful of stragglers continued their exertions into the evening.

Later a spokeswoman for the race committee said unofficial figures showed the last runner had been recorded crossing the finishing line tonight with a time of eight hours, 56 minutes and 59 seconds.

She said the figures showed 30,750 people had been recorded as having finished, a record number.

A series of staggered starts saw the elite women begin at 9am, followed by the wheelchair athletes 15 minutes later and then at 9.30am the elite men and the mass start.

"The London Marathon is the world's richest, with a turnover of nearly 5 million, and the competitive field is regarded as the finest outside the Olympics.

## Million-pound man's alcoholic lunch turned into 6-hour epic

**By JOHN GOODBODY, SPORTS NEWS CORRESPONDENT**

A SEMI-RETIRING business executive raised a world record £1,126,560 for charity yesterday by completing the marathon.

John Spurling, 59, was challenged to take part in yesterday's race by two friends at the end of what he described as "an extremely alcoholic" lunch at Langan's Brasserie in the West End last July.

He agreed that it would be worth the effort only if a substantial sum could be raised and both the Lord's Taverners and the Animal Health Trust used their contacts to help him secure the pledges.

Mr Spurling, whose sporting experience in the past 40 years had previously been limited to the occasional round of golf, finished the 26-mile 385 yards in five hours and 56 minutes.

The two friends — John Bromley, a media consultant, and Richard Shepherd, the owner of Langan's, were at the finish to congratulate him. Mr Spurling said: "I think they



Spurling took challenge at "very alcoholic lunch"

and temperatures of 9C helped the runners in the race, which is expected to raise more than £15 million for charities, including Kosovar refugees.

Among yesterday's celebrity runners was the former European boxing champion Spencer Oliver, who had to give up his fight career last year after nearly being killed in a bout.

The fancy dress element, which included many of the charity fundraisers, also included two 8ft pirates, five trees, a Lord Nelson, several rhinos and one competitor sitting on a lavatory. The oldest runner was the American Abraham Weintraub, 89, who finished in six hours 31 minutes and 36 seconds.

Most runners had left the course by 4.30pm, when the St John Ambulance reported that it had treated a total of 4,115 runners. Of that figure, 26 had been taken to hospital.

The winner of the men's wheelchair race was the Swiss Heinz Frei, 40, who also won last year's event. Monica Wetterstrom, of Sweden, won the women's wheelchair race.

Light winds, a dry course

though I started walking at about 16 miles, I just kept at it.

"I do not regret doing it, but I will never do it again."

The former England footballer John Barnes, the former Olympic track athlete David Hemery and the BBC television sports presenter Helen Rollason, who has cancer, were among those who sent the runners and wheelchair athletes on their way.

Light winds, a dry course

before the race whether their wedding night would be a little subdued. Mr Gambrill, wearing a lightweight top hat and tails, laughed and replied: "No, we are triathletes and we do things in threes."

The couple, who between them have completed more than 100 marathons, finished together, arm in arm, in 5 hours 22 minutes and then went off to celebrate at two parties. They have already had a honeymoon in Sri Lanka and returned on Thursday to prepare for the race.

Mr Gambrill said: "We met through running, got engaged when we were running and so we decided to get married while we were running."

The new Mr and Mrs Gambrill get back on the route

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They were congratulated by

# Explosion tests hard-earned social harmony

"WHY US? Why Brixton?" asked Mensah, a black pensioner, as he scoured the front-page reports of Saturday's explosion outside a supermarket just behind Electric Avenue.

It was not the first time that the South London neighbourhood had hit the headlines but Brixton's residents were bewildered as to why they had become the target for an act of terrorism.

For years the area has been synonymous with urban decay, crime and the racial tensions that erupted into rioting in the early 1980s. But residents say that things have changed, with blacks and whites now living and working together peacefully, new businesses flocking to the area and harmonious relations with the police built up tortuously after years of mistrust. Channel 4 has just begun a

## Neighbours become suspects as multicultural community seeks answers, reports Adam Sherwin

and I hope that there is no retaliation and people hold on to a sense of reality."

Theories as to who had carried out the attack were as diverse as the nationalities that make up Brixton. The first Caribbean emigrants settled there after the war, and approximately 110 languages are now spoken in the area, with Yoruba and Portuguese the most widely used after English.

It has become home to refugees from war-ravaged countries such as Vietnam, Somalia and Azerbaijan. The traders on Electric Avenue include halal butchers, the Salon de Love Afro-European hair and beauty centre and the El Shaddai cash and carry.

There is a small Serb population, leading to the suspicions raised by Dennis Reynolds, a stylist at Twin Barbers on Coldharbour Lane, who went



The scene of the bombing yesterday. Some local people blame the Iraqis, some the Serbs, while others suspect a link to the Stephen Lawrence case

to help after the blast shook the shop. "It would make sense for this to be an anti-Nazi bombing attack. The Serbs held a demonstration a few days before," he concluded.

People are now making money in Brixton. Public and private investment has created

them," he added. "Brixton is so cosmopolitan, there is no racial tension here. Everyone wants to make money and enjoy themselves."

A new indoor market and low-cost business units. There is a thriving nightclub scene.

Who would want to threaten these achievements? "I heard it was animal liberationists," said Tony, a trader whose brother was injured in the ex-

plosion. "I reckon it was the Iraqis," said Fred McLarnon, an Irishman.

As the residents search for answers, there is a new sense of unease on the streets. Religion plays a large part in the lives of the Afro-Caribbean

community, and many went to church yesterday to seek consolation. The blast was almost apocalyptic. Mr Reynolds said: "The sky went black with thunderclouds and smoke. It looked like the end of the world had come to Brixton."

## Scotland Yard rules out Irish terrorism link

By STEWART TENDLER, CRIME CORRESPONDENT

LONDON'S first serious bomb attack for three years left Scotland Yard detectives yesterday with a list of suspects ranging from Serb guerrillas to neo-Nazis and a lone psychopath.

Detectives cannot even be sure that the nail bomb attack on the Brixton market in South London was the target.

The bomber could have got cold feet or feared the crude device was faulty and dumped it before the bomber reached his destination.

On Saturday night first suspicions focused on Irish terrorists. The last bombings in London were carried out by the IRA during its 1996 campaign which began with the South Quay attack.

The IRA has made nail bomb attacks on the mainland against Chelsea Barracks in 1981 and a cavalry unit in Hyde Park in 1982, when a car bomb packed with nails exploded and killed four. But police and ministers ruled out Irish terrorist squads or any other known terrorist organisations. Kate Hoey, the Home Office minister responsible for the Yard, said intelligence and forensic work had ruled out Irish terrorism. Ministers also dis-

missed the possibility of a Serbian attack. Douglas Hender- son, the Armed Forces Minister, said he had no evidence of a terrorist cell in Britain and MI5 and Special Branch assessments have never identified any Serb threat in Britain.

London has also been the scene of Middle Eastern terrorist attacks and Saturday marked the Islamic new year. Yet a market in Brixton would hardly be a suitable target for fundamentalists.

Lee Jasper, a leading black politician, raised the possibility of a race attack in a traditionally black area. He pointed to a possible backlash after the Stephen Lawrence report. Most race attacks have been targeted at public figures. The most violent group is Combat 18 which has links to neo-Nazi groups.

The Brixton area is also the scene of bloody turf wars between drug gangs including the Yardies. So far, however, the gangs have only resorted to guns.

An attacker such as the Mardi Gras bomber is also a possibility — or a lone bomber fuelled by unknown motives.

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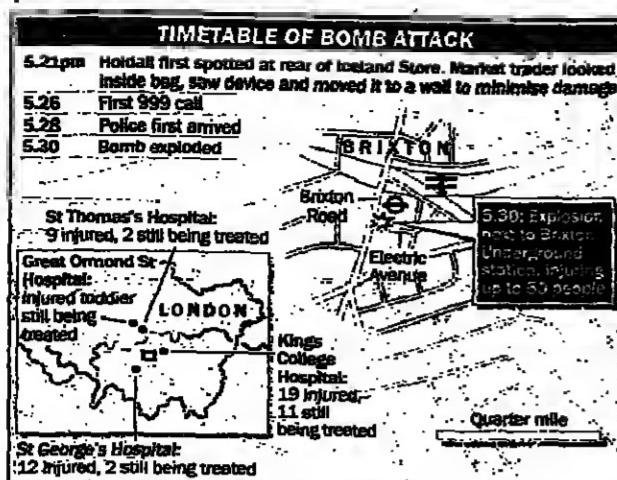
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# Nail pierces brain of two-year-old boy



A shopper's finger was torn off and two people may lose their sight, reports Michael Paterson

A BOY aged 23 months was recovering last night after surgeons removed a nail from his head. Two victims may have been permanently blinded and a man lost a finger.

Nearly 50 people were injured, mostly by flying nails and shards of glass and 39 of them, including four police officers, needed treatment at three hospitals. Scotland Yard said that 16 people, including the baby and a girl aged 15, remained in hospital last night. The police officers were discharged.

Surgeons at the Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children spent 1½ hours removing the nail from the boy's head after nearly an inch of it had lodged in his brain. A hospital spokeswoman said: "The doctors are hopeful that the child will make a full and complete recovery but obviously it is early stages at the moment."

"They do not think he has suffered brain damage but he is being kept under 24-hour observation." The boy, who has not been named, was transferred from St Thomas's Hospital to the neurosurgery ward at Great Ormond Street, where he underwent a brain scan to determine the extent of his injuries.

He was expected to remain in hospital and his mother and father were at his bedside.

The spokeswoman said: "He has made fantastic progress. He came round about breakfast time and wanted to eat breakfast. Only a child can bounce back like that from an operation."

She said that the boy's family were very distressed and did not want to be identified nor to talk about the incident.

The two people whose sight is in danger had surgery at King's College Hospital in

I heard  
this bang  
and my  
finger had  
gone as if  
by magic'

"Then, when I realised it had not come back, I realised that something had happened. My finger was hanging there."

"It was shredded. I was really shaken and bleeding. It was terrible." Mr Pegasus was helped away

by police officers and bandaged at the scene by paramedics before being taken to the hospital. "I saw people lying on the ground screaming and bleeding. It was just chaos."

St Thomas's and St George's hospitals are treating two patients each.

Sister Karen Swinson, 27, who was in charge of the accident and emergency unit at King's, said that up to 100 staff at the hospital were dealing with the aftermath of the explosion.

"We removed nails from faces, heads, legs and arms. There were pieces of glass. There were some very nasty injuries," she said.

Some of the wounded arriving at King's had nails sticking out of them in at least three places, a hospital spokesman said.

Michael Hudson, 35, who was 30 yards from the blast, sat in the sun outside the hospital yesterday drawing on a cigarette. He said that he did not want to speak at length about the traumatic events, but added: "One minute there was a bang. The next I'm lying flat and being covered up in a blanket."

"Now I'm going to be on crutches for several days." He had a nail removed from his left calf.

He said: "I feel disgust about this whole thing. How could they do such a horrendous thing?"

He dismissed suggestions that the bombing may have been carried out by a racist far-right group as "codswal-

lop". He said: "There were white people there as well."

"I don't think there's a racial motive. It could have been anybody who was hurt. Unfortunately, it was me and the other people who are in hospital now."

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# Night watch ends in Monet sunrise

Dalya Alberge joins the crowds who shrugged off sleep to enjoy Britain's first 24-hour art show

Hordes of visitors descended on the Royal Academy of Arts in the early hours yesterday for their last chance to catch a Monet sunrise.

The first 24-hour exhibition in Britain enabled thousands of people, who could not get tickets during normal hours, to see *Monet in the 20th Century* before it closed yesterday.

The country's most successful art exhibition, which has attracted an average of 8,300 visitors a day, opened on its last weekend from 8am Saturday until 6pm yesterday, between midnight and 7am, the crowds poured in.

Young and old were there, some in prams and wheelchairs, others recharging their batteries with a short snooze on one of the gallery benches. Some had set their alarms for 2am, 3am, 4am and onwards; others stayed upright by sipping coffee or grabbing a hamburger near by until their booked ticket time.

Advance tickets were sold out but people were prepared to queue for those sold at the door. Richard Parker, an estate agent from London, who braved the cold for 45 minutes at about 3am, said he had promised himself that he would see the show. "It was worth it," he said. "I always believe you can spend too much of your life sleeping."

Every person questioned said that they would do the same it again. Yes, they were tired, but that was nothing against the exhilaration of seeing Monet's shimmering watercolours and views of London and Venice. If anyone yawned, it had nothing to do with boredom. Simone Pitt, from Easycote, northwest London, discovered that seeing an exhibition at that time had its benefits: "Because you're short of sleep, your senses are heightened. It's absorbing in a different way."

"My body is shutting down, so my eyes are taking in more. I'm looking at things with or without my glasses, squinting. It gives a different dimension to what I'm seeing." Dana

Salinger, a photography student from Israel, said: "You think differently at night. You have different opinions."

A Belgian man said that his experience had been heightened by the alcohol that he had consumed. "They should have more activities like this. The atmosphere seems more relaxed at night."

Nigel Lingwood, a controller with Unigate, brought his wife and three young children at 3am. His nine-year-old son, Alex, particularly wanted to see the show.

He was not the only young enthusiast. Cato MacLean-Parker, 7, was so keen that he had woken his parents at 3am, an hour earlier than they had set the alarm. His mother, Sheena MacLean, said: "He told us, 'It's time to go.'"

Onlookers gathered around Cato as he sat cross-legged on the floor, making an extraordinarily mature copy of Monet's *Charing Cross Bridge*. With a fluffy rabbit clutched under one arm, he silently observed the picture and noted its details in a variety of crayons: a sun subtly emerging from the clouds might have been missed by another child, but Cato caught it.

Enrico Marconi, an Italian composer and conductor who lives in Britain, urged Cato's parents to send him to study painting in Florence and recalled how as a child of that age he had to beg his parents to let him study music.

Claire Draizin, from Burnham, Buckinghamshire, described herself as a "mad mother" who had been so captivated by a daytime visit to the show that she simply had to bring her husband and children, William, 10, and Sophia, 8. "We set our alarms for 3.30am," she said. For the children it was an adventure, but they came "on the proviso that we have a slap-up breakfast afterwards".

Iris Watts, a retired telephone from Guildford, brought a cousin from Canada for a 4am viewing. "We have no regrets. It has convinced us that we're

not as old as we thought. We're amazed at how many were prepared to stay up."

Catherine and Adrian Watson travelled from Stroud, Gloucestershire, and Angela Goodman, a medical receptionist, had travelled for 4½ hours on a train from Cornwall: "I would do it again, but Cato caught it."

Chris White, a student of international politics, and Kim Wilkes, a nurse, came down from Nottingham and kept themselves going until their 2am admission slot by "drinking coffee and eating chocolate cake". They were catching a train back straight afterwards.

Exhaustion was taking its toll as time rolled on, but nobody was prepared to give in. At 4am, Vanessa Tate and Aya Yokomichi, students from the Royal Academy of Music,

wished that they were "more awake". They rested on a bench after whiling away time in bars, McDonald's restaurants and other venues until entry time.

On the same bench was Eli as Kupfermann, who works for local government and was planning to stay for four hours; he had queued for 1½ hours in Piccadilly. "It's quite tiring, but I'd definitely do it again," he said.

Clemmie Burtonhill, an art history student, had survived a night of clubbing in Leicester Square and 45 minutes' queuing. She sat momentarily with her head between her knees. Minutes later, she leapt up and was talking about going on to the Kandinsky exhibition in the gallery next door.

Nothing was going to stop these art lovers.

**Dawn visitors at the last day of *Monet in the 20th Century* yesterday. "Because you're short of sleep, your senses are heightened," said one**

## THEY CAME, THEY SAW, THEY SPENT

More than 730,000 people visited *Monet in the 20th Century* after its opening on January 23. The figure excludes tens of thousands who attended private viewings.

The Royal Academy of Arts drew an average of 8,470 visitors a day, making it the most popular exhibition held in Britain.

The daily attendance exceeded even that of *The Treasures of Tutankhamun*, held at the British Museum in 1972.

The British Museum show drew a total of 1.7 million visitors, but that was over nine months.

attracted 6,160 people. A spokeswoman said: "We were up to capacity every single hour." The academy's 1990 *Moët* exhibition attracted 7,003 a day.

Box-office income for the latest Monet totalled £3.9 million. The show cost £1.8 million to mount. The final profit is not yet known. Postcard sales reached 650,000, at 50p each. The best-selling was *Grand Canal in Venice*.

The academy's shop sold 135,000 exhibition catalogues. Sixty thousand were priced at £19.95 an introductory version at

£5.95 accounted for the rest. More than 14,000 people bought a Monet calendar for 2000, costing £9.95 each.

The academy attracted 25,000 young people to its schools and educational workshops, and 55,882 of the exhibition visitors were under 18. A further 16,750 visitors had special needs.

Other popular merchandise included computer mousemats and mugs in waterlily designs, each priced at £9.95. But neither leapt off the shelves with quite the vigour of Philippe the Frog, a £9.95 cuddly toy that sold out.

## Man held after killing

A man was arrested yesterday after the killing of a mother of two in Derby. The arrest followed a police appeal for information on the whereabouts of Mark Leicester, 37, who had not been seen since failing to return to Sudbury prison in Ashbourne, Derbyshire, on Thursday night. He had been released from Sudbury, where he was serving a life sentence for stabbing a girlfriend to death more than ten years ago, to spend a day working with handicapped children.

The arrested man gave himself up to police in Rhyl, North Wales, on Saturday. The body of Margaret Thompson, 38, a chambermaid, was found at her flat in Derby on Friday.

## Glider drama

A birthday treat ended with two men baling out of a glider split in two by lightning near Leighton Buzzard. Peter Goldstraw, an instructor, and Graham Cooper, who had been given a flying lesson for his birthday, parachuted to safety.

## Youth charged

A 14-year-old has been charged with the rape of a 49-year-old man, police said. The boy was also accused with indecently assaulting the man's 52-year-old female partner and with burglary. He is to appear at Lowestoft Youth Court today.

## Animals dropped

Mary Chipperfield's conviction for animal cruelty has upset Sainsbury's plans to have an elephant and horses in a parade. Organisers of a festival in Birmingham were to hire the animals from the circus family, but cancelled after the case.

## Healthy interest

The Independent Television Commission rejected complaints about a live demonstration on examining testicles for cancerous lumps on ITV's *This Morning*. The commission said there was "a strong public health case" for the item.

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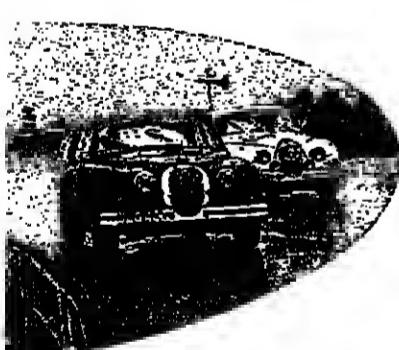
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SAGA

# Prayers for dying Cardinal Hume

Tributes pour in for a revered spiritual leader, Ruth Gledhill writes

CHRISTIAN congregations of all denominations across Britain joined in prayer yesterday for Cardinal Basil Hume, Archbishop of Westminster, who has disclosed that he is dying of cancer.

The cardinal, leader of four million Roman Catholics in England and Wales, who is suffering the advanced stages of the disease, said that he was determined to see in the millennium, which has been designated a "Holy Year" by the Pope.

Tributes came from Catholic Church of England and other church leaders after the cardinal wrote to his clergy telling them about his illness.

Cardinal Hume, 76, who was appointed to Westminster in 1976, has responded with characteristic dignity to the results of hospital tests carried out last week.

In his letter to his clergy, he indicated his intention to continue working as long as he could. However, he cancelled plans to celebrate Mass in one of his parishes yesterday. Today he is expected to preside at a memorial Requiem Mass at Westminster Cathedral for the late Bishop Patrick Casey, former Bishop of Brentwood.

Hundreds of worshippers went to the cathedral yesterday to pray for the cardinal.

Cardinal Hume has a busy diary for the rest of this month and subsequently. Next Sun-

## SEARCH FOR A SUCCESSOR

THERE is no obvious candidate to fill Cardinal Hume's place as a respected and loved leader, although a search began months ago for his successor.

The Apostolic Nuncio (Vatican ambassador) in London, Archbishop Pablo Puenca, began working on the list of three names of possible successors to submit to the Pope for a final decision after the cardinal offered his resignation on reaching the age of 75 last

year. The Pope asked the cardinal to stay on until at least 2000, an indication of the respect in which he is held, but work did begin on finding a replacement.

Those being considered are thought to include the Archbishop of Liverpool, the Most Rev Patrick Kelly, the Master of the Dominican Order, Father Timothy Radcliffe, OP, who is based in Rome; and the Bishop of East Anglia, the Right Rev Peter Smith.

part of the annual "Low Week" meeting of the Bishop Conference of England and Wales, which he heads. It was so out of character for him to be absent from the meeting that bishops began to suspect something serious was wrong.

After learning his test results, the cardinal wrote on Friday to his clergy and posted a copy of the letter on his website. In it, he says: "You may have heard that I have recently been in hospital for tests. The result: I have cancer, and it is not in its early stages."

"I have received two wonderful graces. First, I have been given time to prepare for a new future. Secondly, I find myself — uncharacteristically — calm and at peace. I intend

to carry on working as much and as long as I can. I have no intention of being an invalid until I have to submit to the illness."

"But nevertheless, I shall be a bit limited in what I can do. Above all, no fuss. The future is in God's hands. I am determined to see the Holy Year in."

"This is an opportunity for me to thank you for all your friendship, your patience and, of course, your good humour."

"I know that the diocese has a great future. The Gospel must live again in our society. May that grace be given to us all in the Holy Year. You, dear brothers, have a key role to play in that."

The Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr George Carey, led tributes to Cardinal Hume after the announcement. He said: "I am so sorry to learn of the nature of Cardinal Hume's illness. His faithful acceptance of the situation and his ability to look forward with determination and with hope is typical of the man whom we know, love and respect."

Lord Runcie, the former Archbishop of Canterbury, who has been living with cancer for five years, said: "I am full of sympathy for Basil Hume and eager to add my prayers to the many that will be said for him."

Cardinal Hume's website is: <http://www.westminster-diocese.org.uk/cardinal/>

دكتور احمد العجمي



Cardinal Hume — intends to carry on working for as long as his cancer permits

## Granada defends suspects' holiday

BY TIM JONES

GRANADA Television last night defended its decision to provide the five young men suspected of killing Stephen Lawrence with a holiday in a luxurious Scottish farmhouse.

The revelation that they were taken to the hideaway in Perthshire before their interviews with the journalist Martin Bashir were shown on the current affairs show *Tonight* has infuriated legal representatives of the Lawrence family and some politicians.

Imran Khan, who acts for the family, said they had asked him to look at steps they could take through the Broadcasting Standards Council and to consider legal action.

Sources close to the five said that they had been chauffeur-driven, taken go-karting, given tickets to a Scottish football match and played golf at expensive courses.

Granada said it paid Jamie Acourt, his brother Neil, Gary Dobson, Luke Knight and David Norris only £25 per head per day for their 15-night stay. Mike Large, for Granada, said: "All we paid for was accommodation costs, which came to £1,875."

But Jill Bristow, 65, the farmhouse's landlady, said it was booked for a month at a cost of £895 a week: a total of £3,576.

Rosanna Cunningham, an SNP MP, said: "I am appalled ... to know that these men may have been given a fortnight's freebie holiday."

## Why men prefer their news back to front

BY ALEXANDRA FREAN, SOCIAL AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

RESEARCH into gender differences claims to have solved the riddle of why men flip through magazines from the back, while women start from the front.

Puzzled about why men's magazines on newsagents' shelves had their outer edges curling upwards, while women's titles curved downwards, researchers from the Durrants press cuttings agency set out to discover the reason.

Observation of men at bookstalls and news stands and interviews with editors of men's titles revealed a simple truth: men are so conditioned to turning to the back pages of newspapers for the sports news that they have become virtually incapable of reading anything from the front.

Jonathan Shepherd, a director of Durrants, which reads nearly 200,000 newspapers and magazines a year on

behalf of its clients, said: "This quite clearly indicates that the top stories should be at the end of the publication — a bit of a reversal of the accepted trends."

Bill Prince, deputy editor of the leading men's title *GQ*, said that the magazine had its sex page on the inside back page for this very reason.

"The back page is nearly always the 'second entry' after the front cover, because men are conditioned by the position of the sports pages on the national newspapers."

Habits were changing, however, he added. "As sport starts to gain front-page status, things will start to change. Meanwhile, men continue to look under the skirts to discover the interesting bits as soon as possible."

Liz Horley, spokeswoman for another leading men's title, *FHM*, said that the maga-

zine placed its True Story feature on the inside back page because it was the best-read page. "Men won't look at the contents page in the newspaper shop. Instead they will dive into the magazine to find out what's going on — almost always starting at the back."

But Elsa McAlonan, acting editor of the women's magazine *Marie Claire*, said that while men's conditioning probably stemmed in part from the position of national newspaper sports pages, other forces were also at play.

Women, she suggested, were more logical than men and tended to savor their magazines, rather than rush through them for a quick thrill. "Women start at the front because it makes more sense. Men are impatient and think they are getting the picture quicker by starting at the back."

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صورة من الأصل

## BALKANS WAR: LONG HAUL PREDICTED

# Serbs lie in wait for Nato



The alliance is pinning its hopes on the arrival of Apache helicopters to turn tide, reports Michael Evans

THE most ominous news for Nato is that the Serb forces in Kosovo are digging in for a long war, in anticipation that the alliance might change its mind about not undertaking a ground offensive.

The decision by the Serbs to start building defensive positions across Kosovo will make it even harder for Nato's air campaign to have any significant impact on Belgrade's forces there. The Serbs know the territory better than any Nato planner and will have at least two months in which to plot the defence of Kosovo and strengthen their forces, before the alliance would be in any position to launch a land offensive, were Nato's leaders to reverse their policy.

After a bombing campaign that has moved up several gears since March 24, there is no indication of Serb forces leaving the Yugoslav province. Indeed, there are some intelligence reports that reinforcements have recently been sent to Kosovo, bringing the total to more than the 40,000-man figure acknowledged by Nato.

In the week leading up to

the Nato summit in Washington on Friday, the alliance has one remaining hope that the 48 American Apache attack helicopters being deployed to Albania will begin to turn the war in its favour.

Four weeks of high-flying bombing — at never less than 15,000ft — must have proved to everyone in Nato that aircraft travelling at 500mph at that altitude can never hope to make much of an inroad against an army of 40,000 troops who are digging into well camouflaged positions.

Air Marshal Sir John Day, Chief of Operations at the Ministry of Defence, was honest enough to admit as much when asked whether air power alone could destroy 40,000 troops, armed with 300 tanks and large numbers of artillery and armoured personnel carriers.

He said: "It's going to be a very long time before we can be absolutely sure that we have destroyed 40,000 troops and 300 tanks."

Nato says it is ready for a "long haul" campaign, but unless the attacks on the fuel depots halt President Milosevic's

tanks and armoured personnel carriers in Kosovo and the Apaches can make a serious difference in picking off Serb troops and armour, Sir John's prediction provides probably the best reason for Nato to start considering other options — diplomatic or military.

Nato has had success in hitting fuel dumps and Yugoslavia's oil refineries, but sanction-busting oil supplies are coming into ports at Montenegro to make up for the losses.

Serb forces in Kosovo are settling in for a long war. Without any immediate prospect of Nato taking on the Yugoslav Army at ground level, low-flying Apaches will be the next best thing to an infantryman.

This is going to change the low-risk strategy adopted by

Nato. Even at 15,000ft, every Nato pilot has had to face up to the threat of being shot down and no one can underestimate the personal courage required to fly through enemy anti-aircraft fire and surface-to-air missile attacks. But in terms of putting the maximum pressure on the Serb forces in Kosovo, there is no substitute for mixing it at close quarters. To do so, even in an Apache with sophisticated defensive aids, will mean taking more risks. It is unlikely that Nato aircraft will have destroyed any of the thousands of shoulder-fired surface-to-air missiles that the Serbs have in Kosovo.

From sidelines, page 17  
William Rees-Mogg, page 22  
Leading article, page 23

Tirana: Five members of an ethnic Albanian family fleeing Kosovo were killed yesterday when their car hit a landmine at the Albanian border, international observers said.

Two boys aged nine and 13, a girl of 15 and their grandmother died when their vehicle exploded before dawn within sight of the Morina border crossing, the first incident of its kind.

Her 44-year-old husband and their son of 11 were hurt.

The boy was in serious condition and was taken by helicopter to Tirana, Mr Angelini said.

Adem Berisha, the children's grandfather, was later found sobbing alone near the border post. He told reporters he was in a car behind the one that exploded. (Reuters)

Albanian side hot dog on the way to hospital. Andrea Angelini, a spokesman for the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe, said.

At least 14 people reported killed when Nato missile hits a train on a bridge in southern Serbia. Serbia's largest refinery burns after missile strike. Yugoslav parliament votes to join union with Russia and Belarus.

## CHRONOLOGY OF WAR

## This week

April 20: Tony Blair to visit Nato headquarters in Brussels and RAF base in Germany.  
April 22: Nato leaders to mark alliance's 50th anniversary at Washington summit. Celebration overshadowed by Nato's first conflict.

## April 18

Nato aircraft hit 36 targets between Saturday night and Sunday afternoon. Nato claims it has crippled Serbia's air defences and ability to refine oil. About 20,000 more refugees arrive in Albania. US Apache anti-tank helicopters start arriving in Albania. Nato asks for use of Bulgarian airspace for strikes against Yugoslavia.

## April 17

Nato says at least 3,000 people have been murdered in Kosovo in the past three weeks. UNHCR says it might need to airlift refugees to distant countries. Bad weather hampers most Nato airstrikes overnight.

## April 16

Belgrade turns down UN peace proposal. Pentagon says it wants 33,000 reservists. Mass expulsions of refugees from Kosovo resume.

## April 15

Nato says F16s dropped bomb on one vehicle in convoy that could have been civilian, but confusing account fails to explain carnage.

## April 14

Nato aircraft kill ethnic Albanian refugees. Belgrade reports 64 dead. General Wesley Clark (left), allied Commander in Europe, requests 300 more US planes.

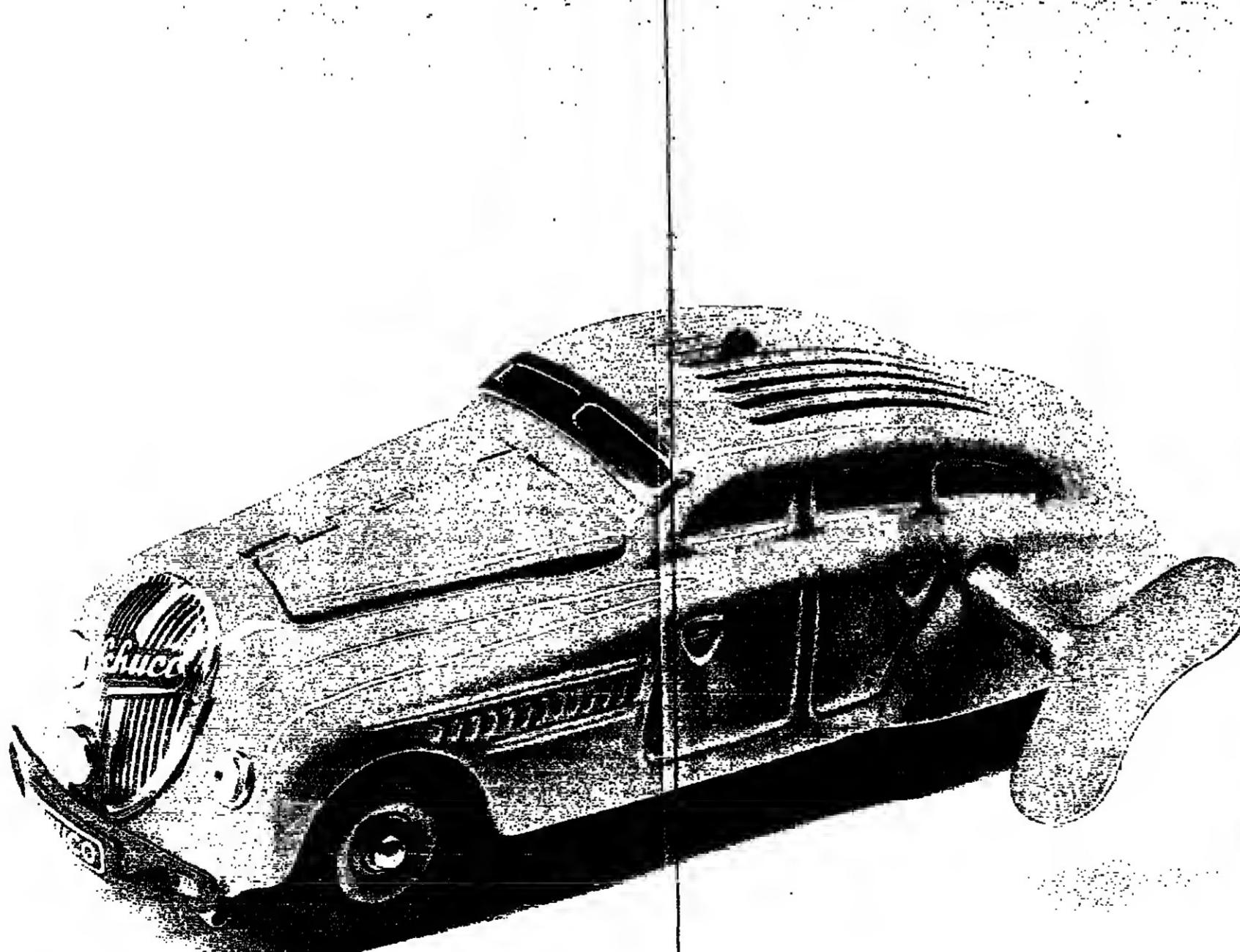
## April 12

At least 14 people reported killed when Nato missile hits a train on a bridge in southern Serbia. Serbia's largest refinery burns after missile strike. Yugoslav parliament votes to join union with Russia and Belarus.

## April 11

Nato bombing slackens amid bad weather and partly in deference to Serbian Orthodox Easter. Belgrade says guerrillas are using Albanian bases; Albania says villages hit by cross-border shelling.

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حكمة من الأرحام



## BALKANS WAR: AMERICAN VIEW



Lady Soames after launching the destroyer named in honour of her father. "He would have been thrilled," she said

HERB SWANSON / REUTERS

## Winston Churchill prepares to defend alliance once more

By DAMIAN WHITWORTH  
IN BATH, MAINE

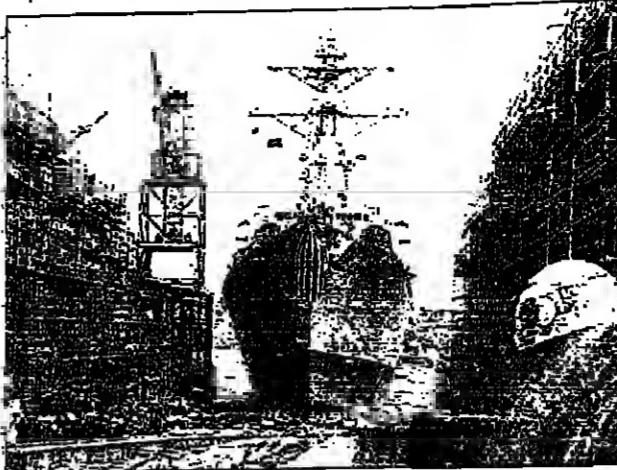
WINSTON CHURCHILL is back on the high seas as a force for war.

Britain and America's military leaders broke from directing the conflict in Yugoslavia to travel to Maine this weekend for a ceremony steeped in symbolism: the launch of the *USS Winston S. Churchill*, the most powerful destroyer to be built.

When she is fully functional early next year, the ship will be the pride of a US fleet that has not named a vessel after a British figure since the War of Independence more than 200 years ago.

The launch had been scheduled since 1995, when President Clinton announced to a joint sitting of Parliament in London that the ship would be named after Churchill to "ride the seas as a reminder for the coming century of an indomitable man who shaped our age."

After almost four centuries

The *USS Winston S. Churchill* slides down the slipway

of shipbuilding in Bath, on the American East Coast. Launches are usually routine. But a combination of the conflict in Yugoslavia and the Churchill name brought a high-spirited and patriotic crowd of several thousand to the banks of the Kennebec River. A very small minority were peace protesters. Shops

of shipbuilding in Bath, on the American East Coast. Launches are usually routine. But a combination of the conflict in Yugoslavia and the Churchill name brought a high-spirited and patriotic crowd of several thousand to the banks of the Kennebec River. A very small minority were peace protesters. Shops

were doing a lively trade in cigars and memorabilia associated with a man who was made an honorary US citizen by President Kennedy.

The ship was launched by Lady Soames, 76, Sir Winston's only surviving child. "We did it!" she yelled as she smashed a bottle of champagne against the ship and danced a jig with her co-sponsor, Janet Langhart Cohen, the US Defence Secretary's wife.

"I feel overwhelmed and I think it's moving that, more than 30 years after my father's death, they still set such store by him here," Lady Soames said. "He would have been thrilled and honoured. It is wonderful for his memory and for Britain. It is a special relationship."

Two British ships have previously sailed under the Churchill name: a destroyer during the Second World War and an early nuclear attack submarine. Neither is still in service.

## President 'took no part in war plan'

As the conflict loomed, Clinton was distracted by Lewinsky affair, says Ben Macintyre in Washington

DISTRACTED by the Lewinsky scandal, President Clinton was not even present at the fateful meeting last January when a plan was formed to use the threat of air power to demand Serb acceptance of a peace deal in Kosovo enforced by Nato ground troops.

The White House meeting on January 19, at which Madeleine Albright, the US Secretary of State, successfully argued for a much tougher stance against Belgrade, was a vital moment in the build-up to war. But Mr Clinton was preoccupied with his impeachment trial, according to a report yesterday in *The New York Times* that paints a picture of a President whose attention was focused elsewhere as Kosovo erupted.

At the January meeting Ms Albright overcame the reservations of other senior advisers and the plan, demanding Serb acceptance of Nato troops in Kosovo under threat of force for the first time, was sent for approval to Mr Clinton, who was at that moment preparing his State of the Union address while the US Senate listened to arguments on whether he should be thrown out of office.

The President might have made the same decisions with or without the Lewinsky imbroglio, but officials have acknowledged that the Clinton Administration's obsession with the scandal made it harder to devote adequate attention to the unfolding Balkan crisis.

Bob Dole, the former Republican senator, met Mr Clinton last September after a fact-finding mission to Kosovo but found that "a lot of attention was diverted" from the problem of Yugoslavia by the impeachment debate. Immediately after discussing Kosovo, Mr Clinton switched to the impeachment issue and asked for Mr Dole's help in drumming up support in the Senate against conviction.

The Lewinsky saga was "all consuming... this was a critical time in the Monica events," according to Mr Dole, who said he believed a proper assessment of the deteriorating Kosovo situation "may have been one of the casualties" of the scandal.

White House officials have also conceded that when violence began spreading in Kosovo early in 1998, the administration's energies were deployed elsewhere.

"I hardly remember Kosovo in political discussions. It was all impeachment, impeachment, impeachment. There was nothing else," one presidential adviser told *The New York Times*.

By August 1998, some officials were issuing stark warnings, but again domestic and other concerns intervened. Alexander Vorebrow, the US

representative to Nato, sent a cable calling for an international protectorate in Kosovo enforced by a Nato-Russian peace-keeping force.

The cable, which came to nothing, coincided with the bombing of American embassies in East Africa and Mr Clinton's preparations for his appearance before the Grand Jury investigating the Lewinsky affair.

With the President coming under increasing criticism for failing to act swiftly enough in Kosovo, officials have signalled a shift in emphatic towards an open acknowledgement of the need to remove President Milosevic from power. Military officials have also

**LINKS**

<http://www.mod.uk/news/kosovo>

Ministry of Defence site dedicated to Kosovo conflict

<http://nato.int> Nato website with speeches and latest updates

<http://www.mediacenter.org>

Pristina based agency giving news and analysis from Serb view

<http://www.zlk.com/rubrica>

Kosovo Liberation Army website offering declarations and interviews

<http://www.iwpr.net> Institute for War and Peace Reporting, independent group with wide range of reports on war, human rights and censorship

voiced support for the KLA rebels, predicting a "resurgent" guerrilla force will tip the scales against the Yugoslav Army.

The President is now predicting that the region will never have stability with Mr Milosevic in power. "Our campaign will continue, shifting the balance of power against him until we succeed," Mr Clinton wrote in *The Sunday Times*.

"Ultimately, Mr Milosevic must either cut his mounting losses or lose his ability to maintain his grip on Kosovo".

US officials met in secret with KLA members earlier this month to discuss the possible provision of anti-tank weapons and other support, according to a report in *US News & World Report* magazine. The White House refused to comment on the claim.

Gerhard Schröder, the German Chancellor, has accused some Nato allies of not acting to break off trade with Mr Milosevic despite the hostilities, in an apparent reference to a failure by Hungary — which joined the alliance on March 12 — to stop the flow of oil and gas through its territory to Yugoslavia.

"This is unacceptable. We cannot be at war with a country and let a pipeline that runs through a Nato member country supply the adversary."

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مكتبة الأحوال

## BALKANS WAR: RELIEF EFFORT

دعا من اجل

# Mercy flights feed hungry mouths

**Joanna Bale** in Tetovo watches grateful mothers receive supplies of food and clothing flown in by British charities

THREE days after the first Save the Children aid flight left Kent for Macedonia, one-year-old Valmir Halili gurgled with delight as his mother swapped his tattered shoes for a new pair of sturdy boots.

Having fled the flaming ruins of Pristina with only the clothes they stood up in, he and his mother, Tefta, were at the head of the queue for one of the first aid packages paid for by the British public after the record-breaking appeal by the Disasters Emergency Committee, which has raised £14 million.

"It gives me hope when people so far away are helping me to care for my son," said Mrs Halili, 22, tears welling in her eyes as she examined the contents of a bag of baby food, nappies and clothes at a distribution centre in the Macedonian town of Tetovo. "The Serbs told us to get out at once and forced us to leave all our possessions. They have burnt down our house and we have nothing left. I have no idea whether my parents, brothers and sisters are alive or dead."

Mrs Halili and her husband, Bujar, a former electronics company worker, fled Kosovo with Valmir and his brother Valon, three, at the beginning of the NATO bombing. They are among

an estimated 50,000 refugees who have avoided the squalor of the border camps after being offered rooms with host families in Macedonia. For the past two weeks they have been living in unbearable cramped conditions with five other refugees and 15 members of a family in a six-room house.

"Every Albanian family in Tetovo has many refugees living with it," the head of the family, Mamut Lika, said. "It is up to us to do everything we can."

Mrs Halili had been among hundreds of women with young children who received the aid packages from Britain at a distribution centre run by El-Hilal, an Albanian charity. Mike Gaouette, emergency project manager for Save the Children, said: "While lots of aid has been reaching the camps, we wanted to target the hidden population of refugees living with host families, most of whom have received nothing — which is why we are working with a local charity to distribute it in the towns and villages where it is needed most."

About 1,500 Family Aid kits worth £127,000 were flown to the Macedonian capital of Skopje on Wednesday in a DC8 chartered by Save the Children at a cost of £32,000. A further 1,500 kits destined for an onward journey to

the Albanian capital Tirana, were brought in by road.

As the aircraft landed into Skopje airport, its captain, Ian Peacock, who usually delivers fresh fruit and flowers from Nairobi to London for Marks & Spencer, was overawed: is the view from the cockpit of hundreds of refugees being herded on to flights within Europe most of them without luggage?

"It's only when you see it that the scale of the tragedy hits you," he said. "I've done 10 flights to Central America after the hurricane and to Iran after the earthquake, but those are natural disasters. This is so much more sinister."

With an impressive low of efficiency, British and Finch Nato troops were on standby to unload the 20 tonnes of cardboard boxes and they were taken by forklift trucks to waiting lorries. Overseeing the operation was Ted Billsborough, a Yorksman, in charge of logistics for Save the Children.

One beneficiary, Serbeze Gashi, 27, who was with Leonora, three, and Albina, 8 months, said: "I used to be a middle-class housewife bringing up my two children while my husband went out to work. That is all gone. I thank God for this help."



Valmir Halili, aged one, finds food and new clothing in Albania

## Europe takes more evacuees

FROM STEPHEN FARRELL IN SKOPJE

REFUGEE agencies said last night that they were planning more flights of Kosovar refugees to other European countries, giving warning that border camps in Macedonia were "bursting at the seams".

A spokesman in Macedonia for

the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees said that Braze, Stenkovac and other tented villages north of the capital, Skopje, were full with tens of thousands of refugees. Macedonian guards were refusing to let any more cross the border. The

WHERE HAVE THEY GONE?	
Population of 8.3m (1994 figures)	7.7m
Refugees from Kosovo since 1991	1.9m
Air attacks on Yugoslavia on March 24 (UNHCR, Saturday)	573,300
Fled or expelled from Kosovo since 1991	700,000
Surrounding countries with substantial refugee numbers:	
In Albania (UNHCR, Sunday)	335,000
In Macedonia (Macedonian Interior Minister, Friday)	150,000
In Montenegro (UNHCR, Friday) 74,200	
In Bosnia, including Yugoslav Muslims (UNHCR, Saturday)	262,300
In Turkey (Wednesday)	10,250
In Croatia (UNHCR, April 12)	5,600
In Bulgaria (UNHCR, April 12)	2,300

Numbers from governments and international organisations

UNHCR account was packed by a crowd of 3,000 Kosovars who said that a baby died when Macedonian police beat them waiting in the snow for eight hours in a remote mountain area. The UNHCR said that man suffered a heart attack after he was one of 500 people kept overnight in no man's land near Jazincine border crossing because Macedonian guards claimed there was no space in the camp.

Ron Redmond, of the UNHCR, said that the agency would look at expanding evacuation flights to include countries such as The Netherlands, Spain and Portugal, and had held discussions with Britain. The German quota of 10,000 had been filled. Offers from further afield, such as America and Canada, would be "kept in the bank".

V

Valmir Halili, aged one, finds food and new clothing in Albania

## Red tape thwarts aid effort

FROM SAM KILEY IN MORINE

ALREADY caught off balance by the flood of more than 350,000 refugees into Albania over the past three weeks, aid agencies are in danger of being swamped by a renewed tide of victims who have been stranded without shelter in appalling weather.

Refugees crossed the Marne border post yesterday at a rate of 1,000 an hour before Serb security forces inexplicably shut off the flow. In the absence of aid workers, journalists stepped in to hand out plastic sheeting to freezing and exhausted people already drenched after days in the open.

Others used their vehicles to carry the elderly and sick, many of them suffering from hypothermia, to a tiny field hospital set up by the Italian Army — the only visible sign of the 8,000 Nato troops promised for humanitarian relief.

Faced with poor planning and bureaucratic hold-ups at the headquarters of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees in Geneva and the United Nations World Food Programme in Rome, field officers freely admit that they cannot cope with the exodus from Kosovo.

"It is outrageous. We have the wrong sort of sheeting, and to make matters worse, we have run out of it. There have been rows with Geneva over this but our frustrations have just earned us reprimands," said a senior UNHCR field worker.

At first glance the type of plastic sheeting used for shelter might appear to be trivial. But to a refugee who has been walking for days and has left home, murdered relatives and identity papers behind, plastic sheeting represents the difference between another night of agony and relative comfort.

The Albanian authorities have been anxious to keep the refugees moving so that they do not concentrate in the small border town of Kukes. Its population has already doubled and yesterday aid workers were expecting an influx of a further 50,000 to 80,000 people.

Last night families huddled under blankets in the town's streets and already medical workers have given warning of outbreaks of hepatitis, pneumonia and dysentery.

## BALKANS SUMMARY

### Vatican blames Belgrade

Rome: The Vatican declared that Belgrade had caused the Kosovo conflict by engaging in the atrocity of "ethnic cleansing". L'Espresso Romano, the Vatican newspaper, condemned the Milosevic Government for its "policy of violence, deportations and murder". Officials said that the Pope still advocated an end to bombing by Nato.

### Embassy ban

Yugoslavia broke off diplomatic relations with Albania for putting air space and territory at the disposal of Nato. Albania called the move unacceptable and said it would continue to support the alliance.

### Admiral's blast

Madrid: Rear-Admiral Angel Tello Valero, of Spain, has become the first senior Nato officer to express dissent over the war. He said that it to be "a total disaster".

### Crew protest

Five crew refused to sail with a Greek destroyer due to join Nato squadrons in the Adriatic. The men, who said they were "prevented by reasons of conscience", face a court martial.

### Life copies art

Belgrade: The US film *Wag the Dog*, about a fake war, won top award from the Yugoslavian Academy of Film, Arts and Science. It said the plot had become tragic reality. (AFP)

### Nato beer ban

Moscow: Traders in Kaliningrad, the Russian enclave in the Baltic, have refused to sell beer to tourists from Nato countries as a gesture of support for their fellow Slavs.

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# KOSOVO CRISIS

## THE KOSOVO CRISIS

Refugees from Kosovo are flooding into surrounding countries. Many are suffering from hypothermia and disease. Help is needed now.

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Beatrice can stay until her eggs hatch

## Council fails to break its duck

A DUCK holding up a £15 million millennium project was sitting pretty yesterday after being saved from eviction.

A dispute broke out after the mallard, named Beatrice, laid eggs in an ancient spa pool in Bath shortly before renovation work funded by the national lottery was to start. Council chiefs wanted the duck removed so that they could start water tests, but spa staff demanded that she be allowed to stay until her eggs had hatched.

Yesterday Beatrice's supporters were celebrating after the Department of the Environment refused to grant the council a licence to move her.

Margaret Stewart, of the Springs Foundation, said: "It is a victory for common sense. Nobody wanted her to be moved. Now she can sit in peace until the eggs hatch in May."

"And she will be there for a few weeks after that as she teaches her little ones how to fly," she added. "Everyone who has been involved in this is absolutely delighted and Beatrice herself looks extremely happy with the decision."

The council wants to restore the 2,000-year-old pool to its former glory, but the project — already £1.5 million over budget — came to a halt when Beatrice laid her eggs in a flowerpot beside Cross Bath. Now the council will have to carry out the work around the duck without disturbing her.

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# 'Road rage' killer's confession dismissed by victim's family

BY ADAM SHERWIN

THE family of the man murdered by Tracie Andrews yesterday accused her of trying to "save her own skin" after she finally confessed to the killing, in a letter from prison.

Andrews, who was jailed for life in 1997 for the murder of Lee Harvey after claiming that an unknown "road rage" killer had stabbed him 35 times, wrote that she had "lost all control". The 30-year-old convicted killer, from Alvechurch, Worcestershire, said in the letter that she had felt sick as she cradled her dying fiancé on the roadside after the attack in December 1996.

At her trial at Birmingham Crown Court in 1997, the former model vehemently denied involvement in Harvey's death. Her confession to the killing, which was sent to the *News of the World* 21 months after her conviction, infuriated her parents, because she claimed that he was a violent aggressor who had pulled a knife on her.

Harvey's mother, Maureen, 53, said: "She hasn't confessed because she's turning to religion or is remorseful — she is doing it to save her skin. She knows that she's got to admit her crime before she can be considered for parole. That is why she's done it."

While police were still seeking the mythical "road-rage" killer, Mrs Harvey had supported Andrews at a press conference, not knowing that Andrews had killed her son. Yesterday Mrs Harvey said: "I wanted to believe that Lee had been killed in a road-rage attack. My motherly instinct told me to give her the benefit of the doubt. Now, with the confession, I feel stripped of everything."

Ray Harvey, Lee's father, 54, said: "Finally — now the truth has come out — our son can rest in peace. We have always known Tracie would one day admit her guilt. At least now the rest of the world knows what she is. She is a lying, evil, murdering bitch."

The letter says that Andrews flew into a rage after arguing with Harvey about her former lover, Andy Tilston, while driving back from a pub. As the row turned into a fight, she claims that Harvey produced



Lee Harvey's parents and sister Michelle at his graveside yesterday. They rejected Tracie Andrews's claim, in a letter from prison, that he had carried a knife

a knife and threatened her with it, and that he dropped it in the scuffle. She wrote: "I fell. I saw the knife on the floor, picked it up and when he went for me again I just reacted with the knife, I must have stabbed him."

Andrews then decided to concoct the story about a "road-rage" killer. "My whole life had ended... I knew I had to make it look as though we had been attacked," the letter read.

Andrews went on to say that she did not lied to police she might now have been serving a sentence for manslaughter instead of murder. She said

she had wanted to confess because "the more I keep things bottled up inside the worse I'm making myself feel".

The letter said that Lee got out of the car and pulled a knife. He "grabbed my hair. He said: 'See if Andy wants you with a \*\*\*\*ed up face! He had a knife and I was scared."

"With that I knew him, he fell down and pulled me down too... He punched me again, I fell, I saw the knife on the floor, picked it up and when he went for me again I just reacted with the knife, I must have stabbed him then he stood still... and hit me so hard I fell again. I just went mad."

Andrews gave the false story to the police. The letter reads: "I do feel I should have been convicted of manslaughter. I should have told the truth in the first place and used my defence."

She subsequently attempted suicide.

The Harvey family denied that their son had carried a knife. Ray Harvey said: "It is a complete fairy-tale. I believe she had taken the knife out with her."

Both Andrews's solicitor and the *News of the World* declined to comment on how the letter had reached the newspaper and whether it would be the subject of any payment.



Andrews with Lee Harvey, whom she admits killing

## Colleges to seek higher tuition fees

BY ELIZABETH JUDGE AND CHRISTINE MIDDAP

UNIVERSITIES believe that they have weathered the impact of £1,000 tuition fees and are ready to lobby for higher charges in the next Parliament, a survey by *The Times* has shown.

Fears that dropout rates would soar as students were faced with their first bills have proved unfounded, university officials said. Applications from school leavers have also held up, although the fees appear to have deterred many older applicants.

Detailed figures, published today in the first instalment of *The Times Good University Guide*, show that some former polytechnics have been badly affected, however. Thames Valley University, which had a rescue plan agreed by the Higher Education Funding Council for England last Friday, had seen a 19 per cent drop in applications.

However, De Montfort, another former polytechnic, recorded the biggest increase, with almost 20 per cent more applicants. It was followed by two other new universities: Abertay and Lincolnshire and Humberside.

A separate survey showed that most students were overcoming the financial impact of tuition fees. No university reported a rise in dropout rates and Barclays Bank said the number of students in debt on graduation had risen by only 4 per cent in four years.

Tuition fees for full-time undergraduates will rise by £25 for 1999-2000, in line with inflation. But many vice-chancellors are anxious to see a much larger increase after the next election. That would require the assent of both Houses of Parliament.

Few university yet have complete data on this year's dropout rates. But Hilary Layton, public relations officer for York University, said only five students had left for financial reasons: "There is no doubt that financial problems are becoming more serious, but they are not serious enough yet to be influencing dropout rates."

Lesley Munro, academic registrar of the University of Central Lancashire, said early indications suggested that retention may be slightly up on previous years. "It will probably take a couple of years before we know the impact."

Professor Les Ebdon, the deputy Vice-Chancellor at Plymouth University, said: "I think that the impact of the fee and of loans has been to make students think more carefully about applying."

University Guide, page 45

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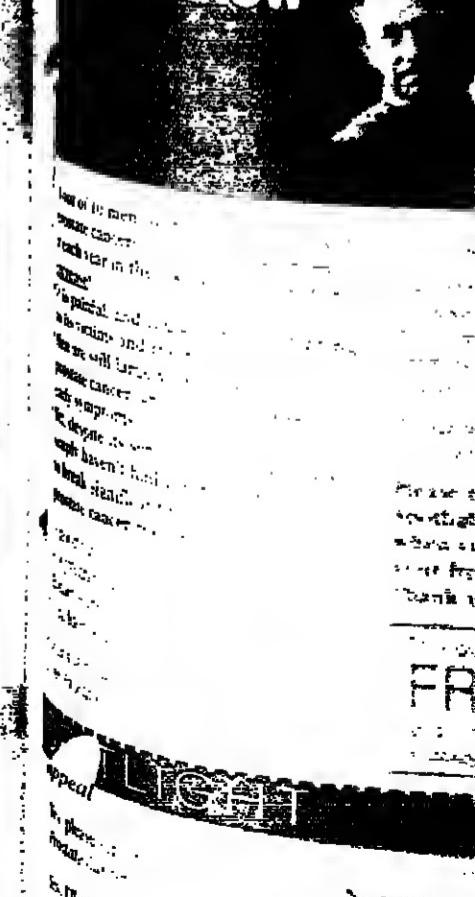
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# Queen spots Korea opportunities

**Alan Hamilton**  
in Seoul reports  
on an historic  
visit at a crucial  
time for British  
trading links

THE Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh are not the most dedicated of football fans, but they will be unable to avoid the game when they begin a four-day state visit to South Korea today, the first by a British monarch to the South-East Asian tiger economy that is struggling to recover its roar.

Tomorrow the Duke will tour the £105 million stadium being built in Seoul for the 2002 World Cup, which Korea is co-hosting with Japan after long wranglings in Fifa, world football's governing body. Japan has already won the right to the final and the two countries are horse-trading over which of the remaining 64 fixtures each will host.

Seoul has secured the opening ceremony and the first game. The Queen, touring the world's largest all-female university, with 18,000 students, will meet Im Eun Joo, who has become the world's first woman to qualify as an international football referee.

But the visit is more about celebrating 202 years of contact between countries that have remained allies except for periods of Japanese occupation since Captain William Broughton sailed his survey ship HMS *Providence* into Pusan harbour in 1797.

Coincidentally, the visit begins 39 years to the day since militant Korean students revolted against the government of President Syngman Rhee on April 19, 1960. The Queen's presence recognises that Korea has gone well down the democratic road since then. Her host, President Kim Dae Jung, last year became the first opposition leader to be elected to his country's highest office.

First proposed in 1986, when



Pupils at Midong elementary school in Seoul rehearse their welcome for the Queen. They are to demonstrate their skills in taekwondo, for which the school is celebrated

that the visit had generated huge excitement. "The Koreans see it as a milestone; they remember the 56,000 British troops, and their 800 deaths of the Korean War. And after their recent financial trouble they have looked to Britain as a model of how to rebuild their economy."

While the Duke takes a trip to see the demilitarised zone at Panmunjom, where the ceasefire was agreed in 1963, and to

"After their recent financial trouble, they have looked to Britain as a model of how to rebuild their economy"

peer into the bleakness of North Korea, the Queen will be on happier business celebrating her 73rd birthday in a village. She will be invited to sample traditional birthday treats, including rice wine.

British officials may take the opportunity to question the Koreans on their future investment plans in Britain, particularly the likely fate of the uncompleted Hyundai electronics plant at Dunfermline.

Stephen Brown, Britain's Ambassador in Seoul, said

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# Move to Berlin marks a shift in country's view of itself

THE German parliament meets for the first time today in the new Reichstag, decked out with a glass dome that shines out of the Berlin gloom like a lighthouse in the fog.

Everyone seems pleased with the architect, Sir Norman Foster, though there are still a few grumbles about brightly coloured wooden panels and the narrow widths of the seats for the parliamentarians.

There were political and aesthetic battles along the way. The shape of the German eagle was changed several times until it ended up as a vaguely familiar overfed hen. Sir Norman wanted grey seats and had to settle for a lighter shade of Prussian blue; indeed one could see the whole project as Prussia Light, a safe low-

calorie revival of a building not only heavy with history, but also positively obese.

The Reichstag witnessed some of the most tense confrontations in modern German history: it was set ablaze in 1933, providing the Nazis with an excuse to implement emergency powers: in the dying days of the Second World War, Soviet soldiers regarded it as one of the great prizes of Berlin.

Graffiti scrawled by Russian soldiers was found during the restoration work and Sir Norman has shrewdly kept the Cyrillic etching as part of the interior design. But German politicians have been keen to drop the name Reichstag, which means the imperial parliament.

Today's parliamentary session will be brief and Bonn —

apart from setpiece events such as the election of the President next month — will remain the political cockpit of Germany until the summer. But crates of ministerial archives are being loaded onto trains and trucks for the trip to Berlin and the machinery of government will slowly shift into metropolitan gear. Civil servants are being offered packages of £30,000 to make the reluctant move eastwards.

The Reichstag is not the only tainted building in Berlin: Goering's air ministry will house the Finance Ministry, and the old Reichsbank, where some Nazi gold was stored, will become the Foreign Ministry. The Chancellor, Gerhard Schröder, will preside over a "Berlin Republic" and so he is condemned to

## INSIDE GERMANY



BY ROGER BOYES

talk of history and of the future in a different way from Helmut Kohl.

Even if Herr Kohl had won the election, he would have had to change his rhetoric: it is impossible to rule from the old Prussian capital as if one is still squatting on the banks

of the Rhine. Poland is an hour down the road, and the place brims with Russian shoppers at weekends. It is the most cosmopolitan of German cities.

German analysts tell me, rightly, that Berlin is a deeply provincial capital and one should not expect any big psychological shifts in German political behaviour. Some power will seep out of the system by moving out of Bonn. The fight for the soul of German conservatism will be contested between the Swabian, Wolfgang Schäuble, the Bavarian, Edmund Stoiber, and the Hamburger, Volker Rühe. Berlin does not figure.

As for the Government, its destiny is increasingly being settled in Brussels: local governments too look to the European Commission rather than

to the federal capital. The move to Berlin may thus mark not so much the rebirth of an assertive new Germany but highlight its weaknesses.

Yet shifting eastwards really does matter, not only because it brings Russia closer. East Germans are different and the politicians in Bonn will have to address these differences.

**O**n Kosovo, for example, East Germans — with a memory of Warsaw Pact-led "policing" operations — are far more cautious than West Germans. Seventy per cent of West Germans approve of the participation of the German Army in the Nato operation; only 25 per cent of East Germans agree. This is becoming an important part of the political dynamic. The ex-

First vote, page 20

## WORLD SUMMARY

### Militants get death sentences

**H**AKKEP, EGYPT: The largest military trial yet in Egypt's crackdown on Islamic militants ended with 20 sentences of death or life with hard labour, and shouts of "God is greater" from defendants. Nine sentenced to death were among 107 charged with belonging to the Jihad group which assassinated President Sadat in 1981. Ayman el-Zawahri, the Jihad leader, was tried in absentia and sentenced to death.

### Swiss assent

**G**EVA: Switzerland's voters approved changes to the country's 125-year-old constitution, but the Government's proposal passed less comfortably than was expected, with 59 per cent voting in favour. (AP)

### Killers sought

**M**OSCOW: Chechnya's chief prosecutor issued arrest warrants for four Chechens wanted for the abduction of three Britons and a New Zealander whose decapitated bodies were found in December. (AFP)

### 7 children killed

**B**RASZAVILLE: Seven primary school pupils were killed and 13 seriously injured in Congo when a grenade they were playing with during a break in classes exploded, hospital sources in the capital said. (AFP)

### Baby loses fight

**S**YDNEY: Gabrielle Woods, a baby delivered by Caesarean section after her eight-month pregnant mother committed suicide with her husband's police service revolver, died after a three-day fight for life. (Reuters)

### Revenge blaze

**L**AGOS: At least ten people died when criminals set fire to four houses in revenge over a vigilante leader, Lado Dan Banga, who had prevented several robberies survived the attack in Pembezia, north Nigeria. (Reuters)

### Saintly record

**R**OME: The Pope canonised the French founder of the Marist order, an Italian nun and an Italian priest, bringing the number of saints elevated during his 20-year papacy to a record 283. (AP)

# 30 die as militia take control of Timor's capital

FROM PATRICIA NUNAN  
IN JAKARTA  
AND DAVID WATTS



ARMED pro-Indonesian militiamen were in control of the East Timorese capital of Dili last night after a weekend of terror in which a loyalist leader called for the "cleansing" of all those in favour of independence from Indonesia.

The weekend of brutality left at least 30 people dead, although the army maintained the total was 12. Witnesses said that militiamen were roaming the streets unchecked by security forces.

The militiamen are controlling most of Dili, an aid worker told *The Times* by mobile telephone as a cordon surrounded the home of Manuel Carascalao, a pro-independence activist whose 18-year-old son and eight others died when his house was attacked and burnt on Saturday.

The majority of the 30 victims suffered gunshot wounds, according to the aid worker, indicating that the attackers had access to army weapons.

"The army moves in behind

the militia, chats to them and shortly after that leaves them to do their business. The army is clearly in control of things," the aid worker said.

The violence began on Saturday after two militia groups, "Red and White Iron" and "Thorn" gathered in front of the Governor's residence to hold a rally to publicise their belief that the majority of East Timorese want the territory to remain part of Indonesia.

Eurico Guterres, leader of the Thorn militia, told the crowd: "I command all pro-integrationist militia to conduct a cleansing of all those who betrayed integration. Capture and kill if you need."



Sonia Gandhi, who is talking to the Communists in trying to form a government

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**TEMPUR**  
2000 SYSTEM

## Gandhi's party scents power

BY MICHAEL BINION, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

**S**ONIA GANDHI, heir to India's leading political dynasty, yesterday began negotiations on forming a new Government, after the parliamentary defeat by a single vote of Atal Bihari Vajpayee's Hindu nationalist administration.

The Italian-born widow of Rajiv Gandhi was locked in talks on strategy for her Congress party, which must decide whether to try to form a minority Government or to seek coalition partners from more than 40 parties represented in the 545-member Lok Sabha, the lower house. Congress, the second largest party, is still 127 short of a majority.

She was holding talks last night with at least six political factions, including the Communists, who said they were working to resolve their difficulties over supporting Congress. The Left Front, with 48 MPs, has been supportive of Congress, but seven deputies belong to two smaller communist groups which are opposed to the Congress party's economic policies.

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# Watching from the sidelines

As the Nato action in Serbia intensifies, those who were there can only wait for news and despair. Below, Lucy Hawking interviews a peace monitor and Eve-Ann Prentice speaks to three exiled Kosovans living in London

**W**hen the order to evacuate came, the monitors moved fast. Less than 24 hours after receiving the order to leave Kosovo, the team of international peace monitors were installed in an out-of-season holiday resort in Macedonia. Four days later, the bombing started.

"It's an unpleasant irony that the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia made our extraction very easy," says Captain Tom Kenyon, a British member of the verification team, who has returned to the UK after spending four months in Kosovo. "In many respects, they were only too happy to see us go — the horrific thing being that as we left via the south, the tanks were rolling in from the north." Originally,

the plan had been to evacuate the monitors to Skopje, the Macedonian capital just south of the Kosovo border. In the event, it was decided to take the unarmed force further still away from the threat of attack. Suddenly transplanted from a war zone to a holiday resort, the disbanded force tried to come to terms with the shock of a lightning exodus from the province they had worked so hard to save.

"Within hours we'd gone from this very tense environment in a largely impoverished country into a much better country. We were living in a series of hotels on the edge of a lake which had especially good trout. It was bizarre," says Kenyon.

During their stay in Macedonia, the team's only source of information about Kosovo was satellite television. From it, he learned that some of the ethnic Albanians he had worked with had made it out of Kosovo. "We saw the first load of refugees come through and with joy we saw some of our interpreters being interviewed," he says.

But the few he knows to have escaped from the warfare in Kosovo constitute a tiny proportion of the people he befriended and worked with during his time there. His last posting in Kosovo was in the largely Serbian enclave of Br-

## THE MONITOR

ezovica, former ski resort. Many of the young men were called up to join the conscript army. "I'm fully aware of the effect of accurate air attacks and they'd have been directed at those conscript soldiers."

Kenyon developed good relations with people on all sides in Kosovo. His job as a monitor meant he spent all the daylight hours out in a bright orange armoured Land Rover, covering about 20 villages. "We'd go into the villages and meet all the various dignitaries. We'd also talk to the police and the army and try to get everyone's trust."

An army officer who specialised in reconnaissance, Kenyon had gone to Kosovo be-

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Getting the electricity turned back on was a regular task. "The infrastructure of the country had been completely neglected," says Kenyon. "The roads are all worn to pieces, the sewage systems and electricity supplies are in a terrible state." In the extreme cold of Kosovo's last winter, the lack of electricity affected the monitors more acutely than it did the locals. "While the Albanians had these fantastic wood-burning stoves, they would put us up in these palatial houses where the electricity kept going off." For five days over Christmas, a power cut at the house Kenyon shared with two other monitors meant no heat — in temperatures that dropped to minus 20C — no light and no running water. "It really was horribly cold."

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As the winter ended, violence in the villages in Kenyon's area was growing — bodies by the side of the road became a frequent sight. On one occasion Kenyon had to chase off a pack of dogs to recover a human jawbone from a skull the strays were chewing. "Things had deteriorated in terms of death tolls, of for-tat murders — there had been a few massacres and in some cases legitimate attacks on KLA forces."

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# The clothes every woman has



Above: Black cotton zip-up jacket, £275, black silk car headlight print skirt, £325. Centre: Beige mac with popper fastenings, £225, stone/black reversible apron dress, £195, red cut-out flip flops, £175 Gina, 189 Sloane Street SW1 (0171-235 2932). Above right: Turquoise silk chiffon flocked edged shell top, £225, and white cotton drawstring skirt, £90, zebra-stripe stilettos, £135 by Russell & Bromley



Below right: White linen shirt, £156, and black trousers, £115. All clothes from Red Godfrey, 44 Riding House Street, London W1 and at Liberty's, Wade Smith in Liverpool, Cruise in Glasgow and Cruise Flannels in Nottingham. Photographer: JON MORTIMER, stylist: Deborah Brett, hair: Matthew Cross using LC2 Haircare by Goldwell, make-up: Emmanuelle Guenet at GSM using Origins, model: Hanne at Take 2



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THE TIMES

STYLE FILE  
by Deborah Brett

KELLY HOPPEN  
Interior Designer

Describe your personal style.  
I like to create an environment where texture and touch are combined with a feeling of the philosophy of the East.

If you could go back to any era, when would it be?  
I love the period of *The Great Gatsby*. I love the clothes and all those parties.

What is your favourite shop and why?  
Takashimaya in New York is a very balanced and selective shop where everything is beautiful — you just want to buy it all. Egg in London is similar but on a smaller scale. You know it's going to be an experience going to either shop.



Hoppen: *Great Gatsby* fan

Who is your style icon?  
Frank Lloyd Wright. His use of space and light was both exceptional and inspirational.

What can you not leave the house without and why?  
My perfume. I created it myself. It is quite fruity with a tinge of the East. It smells like part of me.

What is your favourite city?  
New York. I get a great buzz as soon as I get off the plane. I love everything about it from the coffee to the people. It is phenomenal.

What three things can instantly change the look of a room?  
Lighting is a huge factor. It can change the atmosphere and the feeling of a room completely. Greenery and flowers are a great way to introduce nature to your living area and cushions are always an easy way to update or change the look of anywhere.

What is your style motto?  
Balance is the key to life.



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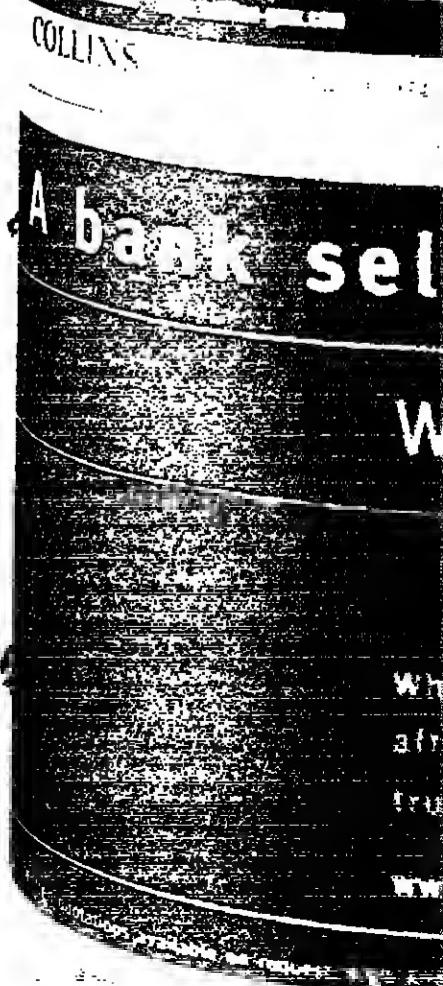
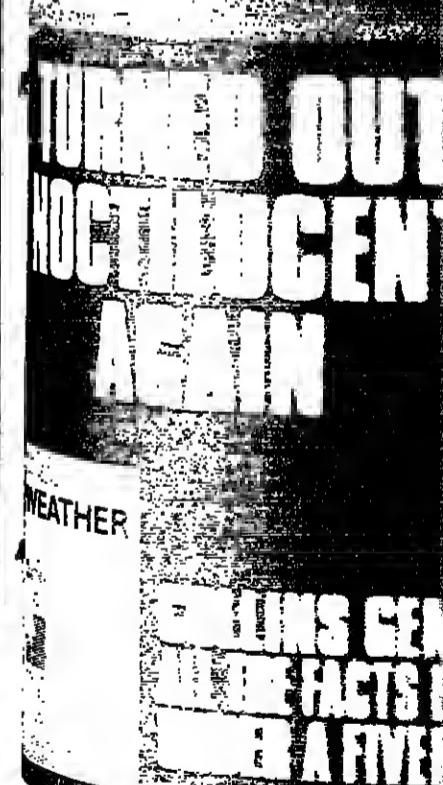
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# been waiting for

Red Godfrey has just launched a range of designs that will become long-term players — beautifully cut, understated, flattering and fashionable clothes that are perfect to wear every day

**O**nce in a while a new line of clothes comes along that makes you wonder how you managed without it. Godfrey was launched in the shops this spring and has already outsold Joseph in Liberty's.

The clothes, almost all in cottons that have been treated with glazes to make them waterproof or add sheen, appear to be simple, in the tradition of APC, but have the kind of thoughtful details that elevate them miles above the rest.

In fashion terms they're basics — except that now most people dress so casually that these clothes could easily solve the problem of everyday dressing. Shirt-jackets and apron-dresses with glazed taffeta finishes are reversible (one side matt, one side slightly shiny, both colours desirable); trousers come without side seams to make them slimming but with adjustable waist fasteners; skirts have drawstring waists, but only at the back, so that the fashion victim in you is catered for, but the front of the waistband remains flatteringly flat and your stomach does, too.

All the pieces in this mainly black, taupe, navy, white and turquoise collection are beautifully cut in that understated way that means they'll become long-term players in the wardrobe.

"It was Coco Chanel — the woman responsible for the first capsule wardrobe more than 60 years ago, in black jersey — who said that 'beauty comes when fashion succeeds'. Red Godfrey, the volatile 31-year-old designer behind Godfrey, puts it another way: 'I used to get hung-up on inventing an amazing idea that looked great on the catwalk until I realised that brilliant catwalk ideas don't necessarily make great clothes.'

Despite the vaguely radical appearance — bullet-trapped hair that used to be red (hence the sobriquet: she was christened Paula) and little sign of personal vanity (other than an unwillingness to admit that she was born in Uxbridge) — she is, one suspects, profoundly sensible.

It comes as no surprise to discover that two of her favourite designs are Catseyes and the Big ballpoint pen or that she was good at maths and science at school. She had to coax

avoided one — the temptation to design about 200 products. Perhaps it was the freedom of being able to do what she wanted after years of confining her product-designing aspirations to friends' birthday cards and party invitations. Suddenly she began casting an eye over cutlery, crockery... "The problem is that once I start thinking about things, I want to change them."

As it is, she couldn't resist designing her own chunky metal clothes rails in her newly-opened shop, complete with concealed groove for the hangers. The shop, in a corner of rag-trade land, behind Oxford Street in London, is a showcase for furniture and lights by up-and-coming designers.

With the collection she forced herself to focus on a few ideas. "Designing for the shop made me realise that it's no good stocking lots of different shapes in lots of different fabrics. You have to get the right piece."

She is happy to keep producing the same cuts season after season if they work. "What I want to do is design clothes that are slick but comfortable and which make life easier. In the early Nineties you could put on a suit to look smart, now it's not so straightforward — but I think that with three pairs of good trousers and a couple of the right skirts you'd have enough for 90 per cent of the time."

Recently a buyer from one of the stores she sells to asked where her millennial party dresses were. She had avoided designing any — rather astutely when you consider how many times women buy a big-event outfit, and how often they buy black trousers.

There is some evening wear,

but so far the Godfrey take on decorative detailing is confined to a hand-brushed image of a motorway (those Catseyes had to get a look in somewhere) that was conceived by her husband Edwin and looks striking on a skimpy black dress and top. "If the collection looks a bit minimalist," she says, "it's because that's how simplicity is being interpreted at the moment. In five years the principles of simplicity will still be there, but the look will have moved on."

"There's a logic behind Godfrey's clothes that means they really do work." She describes them as: sportswear: "not the active sportswear" of the late Nineties, but sportswear in the tradition of US designers such as Claire McCordell, whose

father, a computer systems analyst, into allowing her to go to fashion school. Even her choice of college was well-considered. "St Martin's was daunting but at Ravensbourne they were obviously geared up to getting everyone jobs."

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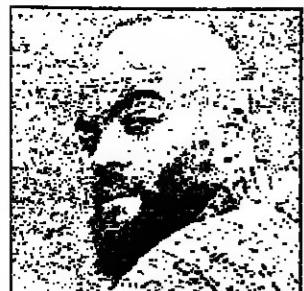
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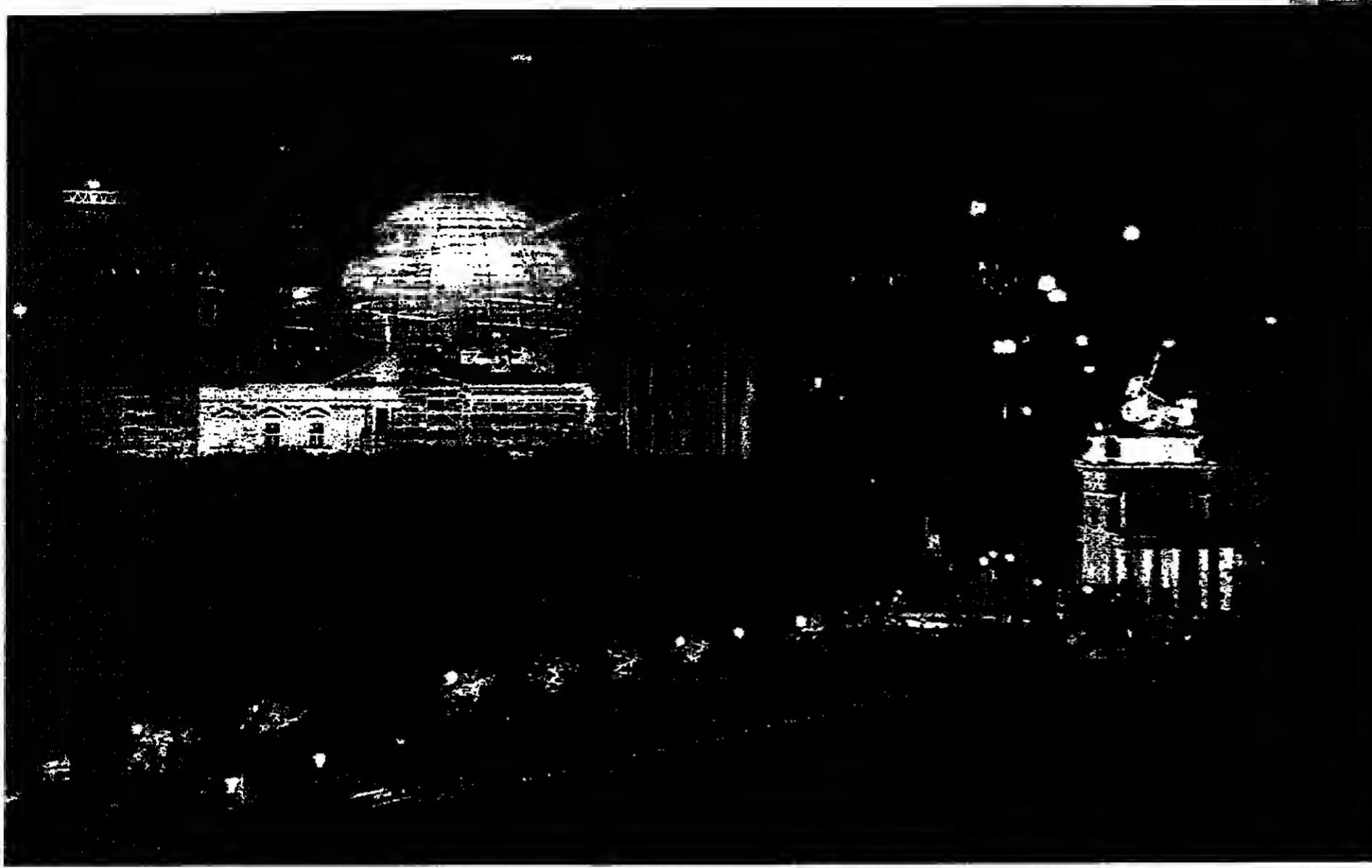
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# ARTS

**MUSIC**  
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**ARCHITECTURE:** Today Norman Foster's new Reichstag opens for business. Marcus Binney reports



United they stand: Norman Foster's converted Reichstag directs its xenon light beams towards the Brandenburg Gate. Below, the reconstructed glass dome seen from the roof

Never before has a parliament been designed to be so open and accessible in its workings as Sir Norman Foster's new Reichstag. Torched by Hitler in 1933 and bombed by the Russians in 1945, the Reichstag was reconstructed in the 1960s as government offices. Now Foster has scooped out the shell to restore the original logic of the classical building, its mirror symmetry, its vistas and enfilades. Its generous spaces and lofty proportions.

In designing this £200 million new home for Germany's 602 Members of Parliament (MPs), he and his colleagues have had the rare advantage of being able to refine the ideals of the handsome new parliament building in Bonn by Behnisch, which was nearing completion as they began.

MPs took their task seriously, coming to London to visit Foster and study Westminster. David Nelson, the part-

## Berlin casts the first vote

ner at Foster's in charge of the project, explains: "They liked the intimacy of the chamber at the Commons and the sense of occasion when it was packed for a big vote." At Bonn, Behnisch had designed a circular chamber — symbol of the democratic ideal, but pushing

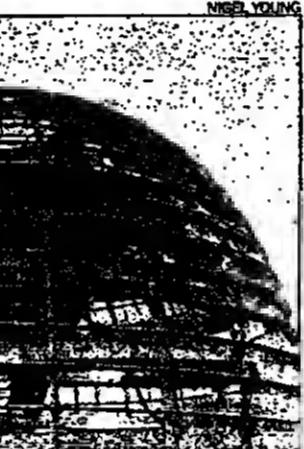
some members almost behind the main podium. "It made us look again at Greek amphitheatres which were not a complete circle and were used as political forums," Nelson says. The Foster solution is to cut off the back of the circle and to introduce facing seats on a closer

arc. The problem of a sparsely populated chamber is dealt with by providing desktops for only the first six rings of seats. While in theory these seats are pre-assigned, members can move forward to take up empty places towards the front. "The idea is to create a chamber within a chamber," says Nelson. This sense of enclosure is increased by suspending the gallery seats for the public well out into the chamber like the grand circle of a theatre.

A special feature of the Reichstag are the very large "faction" rooms or debating chambers, seating 300 or more, where individual political parties thrash out policy in closed session before debates. Party leaders and elected members can emerge from different faction rooms into a huge open press gallery above the debating chamber.

Foster's trump card has long been the brilliant way he brings natural light into his buildings. Here he was constrained by the solid masonry walls. Though the debating chamber has windows on two sides into internal courtyards, Foster wanted natural light to flood down from above. He achieves this by an extraordinary form of conical light scoop with 300 mirrors which even on a dull day reflect daylight into every part of the chamber.

Sunlight streaming in from above enlivens the spirit, but with a clear glass dome it was essential to avoid glare. So a special sunshade, powered by photovoltaic cells which collect



energy on the roof, can be drawn round the inside of the dome when necessary. The shade is also shaped to allow evening sun or low winter sun into the chamber.

Once Foster had decided on a dome he was determined it should not be empty gesture.

The public walk up inside on interweaving spiral ramps — one up and one down — as in the Loire château of Chambord (Leonardo da Vinci is said to have invented this type of double stair for a brother, so customers arriving would not meet those departing).

As the ramp has a gentle incline it is also fully accessible to wheelchair users.

Up to 1,000 people will be ascending and descending this enthralling space — a number governed not by the strength of the spectacular free-floating ramps, but by the availability of lifts and stairs to the roof. Without question this provides one of the world's best sky-

walks. The Reichstag looks out over a glorious sea of trees extending into the distance. No matter that it is nothing like as high as the Eiffel Tower or the Empire State — Berlin is largely a low-rise city.

The surprise at the very top is to find the central eye of the dome open to the elements, like the Pantheon in Rome, allowing the rain to cascade in (it all disappears neatly into drains and circles under the ramps). The central oculus also has a raised halo, an ingenious device which stops a strong wind blowing air — or snow — into the dome.

"Germany leads the world in its green policies," says Foster. "But as parliament passes the laws it had to provide an inspired lead. All the energy used in the building is renewable. The fuel used is not fossil fuel but oilseed rape. Surplus heat in summer is stored in aquifers 300 metres below ground for use in winter."

I have just two criticisms. First, limiting the decorative palette to just one colour per room (plus the inevitable Foster grey) becomes a bit monotonous. Secondly, on the outside Foster's insistently horizontal metal glazing bars just do not fit happily into classically proportioned windows.

That apart, this rates as an inspired rebirth of one of the most traumatised political institutions of our times. Layers of memory are preserved (including graffiti scrawled by Russian soldiers), but everywhere the openness, freedom of movement and lack of hierarchy are remarkable.

Too often, though, the whip is made of chintz.

Even those with a taste for camp will be embarrassed by the opening scene, which occurs in a spoof heaven where a Julie Andrews clone proffers fairy dust, angels dish out fluffy wings,

**F**rom *Beautiful Thing* through *Babies* to his iffy new *Hushabye Mountain*, there has been something defiantly good-natured about Jonathan Harvey's work. He writes healing plays about the gay life and about the relationship between homo and hetero. He seems to want to build bridges across the British class divide, too. The trouble is that the ointment with which he heals has sometimes been adulterated with sugar. So has the concrete with which he and his bridges link the worlds of nob, snob, slob and yob.

Sentimentality spoils *Hushabye Mountain*, but does not ruin it. I liked Paul Miller's production for the English Touring Company in NW3 in the spring more than when I caught it in winter Crewe. The design still looks like a half-built greenhouse forlornly in search of a tomato plant or two, but the cast has sharpened. Its finest scene — gay and straight couples furiously exposing their own sexual inadequacies at what's meant to be a nice dinner — might have been jointly written by Albee and Ayckbourn. It shows that, when he wants, Harvey can crack the dramatic whip.

Too often, though, the whip is made of chintz. Even those with a taste for camp will be embarrassed by the opening scene, which occurs in a spoof heaven where a Julie Andrews clone proffers fairy dust, angels dish out fluffy wings,

and a parody Judy Garland circles in a boat beneath cotton-wool clouds. Instantly you wonder if Harvey can have anything serious to say about the latest arrival: Andrew Lincoln's Danny, who has succumbed to Aids, leaving his partner, Stuart Laing's Connor, too bereft to cope with another lover he's as good as a win on the lottery: "You've made him the happiest man on God's earth." I am not so convinced it says a lot for his observation of our sad, divided world.

**THEATRE**  
*Hushabye Mountain*  
Hampstead

seem less confusing and more functional. Suddenly to replace Ben with Danny at a table, or vice versa, is to say something about the power of past grief and remorse over present hope.

Nevertheless, you keep asking yourself questions. Why does everyone idealise Danny so? Why has he rejected his poor, mad mother, Elizabeth Estensen's Berlin, and why is she intermittently transformed into Judy Garland? And though



Destination Heaven:  
Andrew Lincoln (Danny)

David Kennedy and especially Rose Keegan give wonderfully funny performances as a Cockney bike-courier and his eagerly twittering middle-class girl; are they always credible? It says much for Harvey's warmth that the former is a salt-of-the-earth type who tearfully tells his brother Connor he's ace and his brother's dying lover he's as good as a win on the lottery: "You've made him the happiest man on God's earth." I am not so convinced it says a lot for his observation of our sad, divided world.

**BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE**

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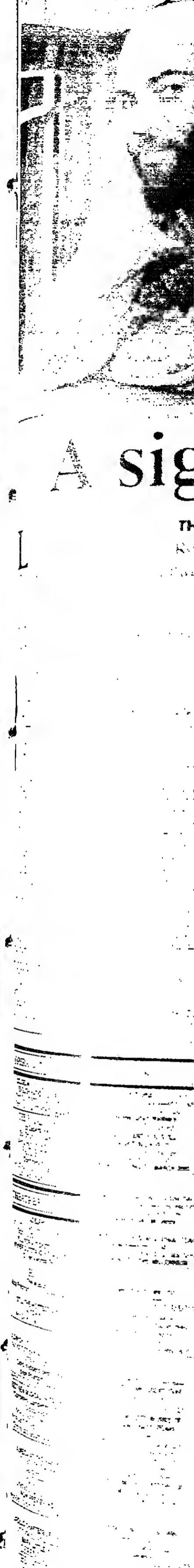
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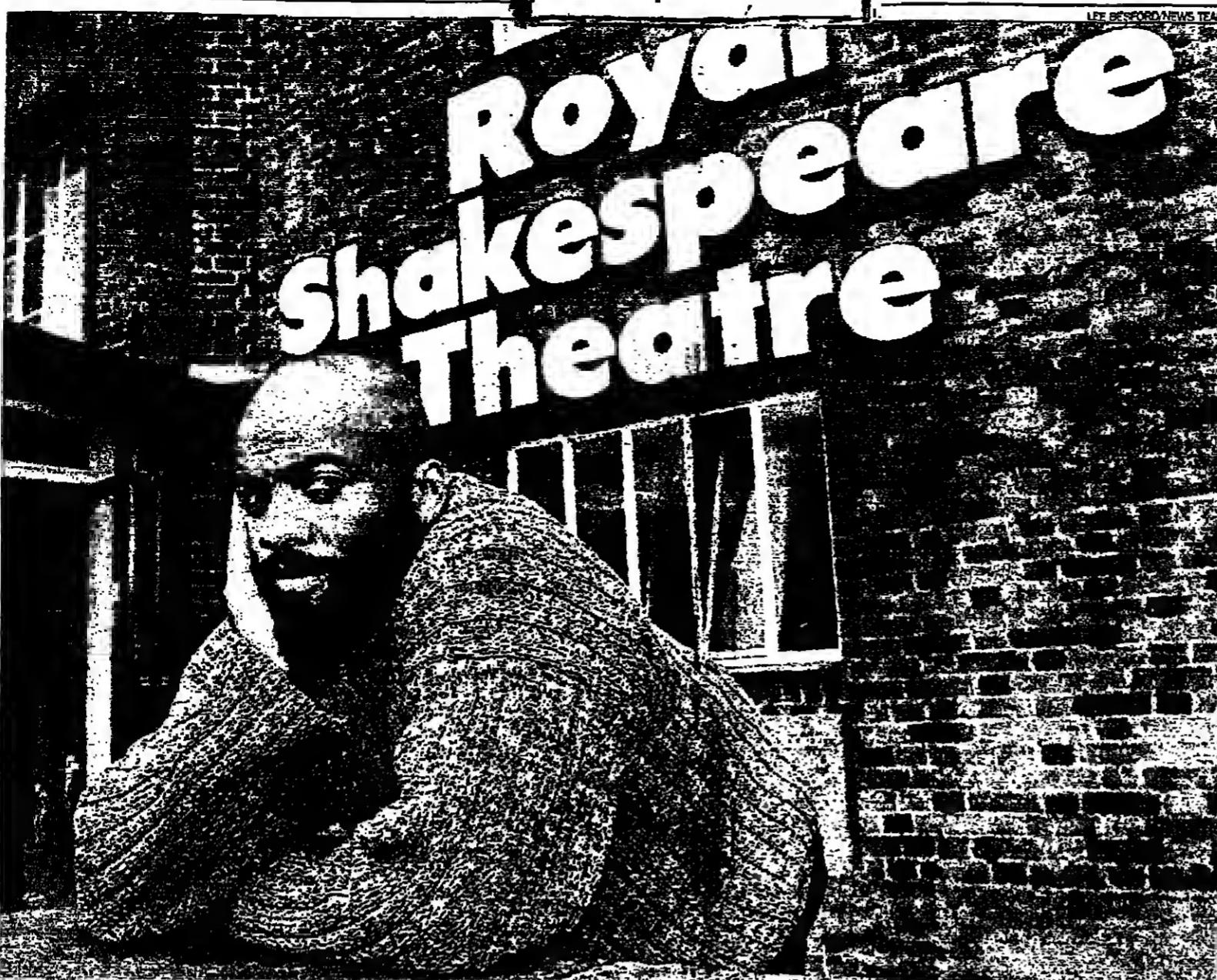
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"Othello is a very difficult part," says Ray Fearon, who tackles the role with the RSC this week. "There is a danger of burning your flame too early"

## A sign of maturity

Last season Ray Fearon played Romeo for the Royal Shakespeare Company. A passionate, earnest boy, out of his depth in a grown-up world of love and violence, he was convincingly desperate and even noble. Now he is cast as the RSC's Othello, matched again with his Juliet, Zoe Waite, and directed once more by Michael Attenborough. But wait. Isn't he too young for the part? Does he have sufficient authority, the necessary gravitas for Shakespeare's tragic hero?

When Fearon arrives at the RSC's Clapham rehearsal rooms after his regular morning run, he is barely recognisable as the boyish actor who, it is said, set teenage hearts aflutter during the *Romeo and Juliet* tour. He is commonly referred to as "a hunk", but he now cuts a more substantial figure and he is sporting a beard. "We had to do the posters ages ago," he explains, "and Michael asked me to have some idea how I intended to look, so I shaved my head and grew a beard." The result is an impression of maturity.

There is certainly nothing tentative about his manner, either. As we cross Clapham High Street to have lunch at the local tapas bar, he says "I will stop the traffic for you", raises his hand and a line of trucks grinds obediently to a halt. Doubts vanish. This is a man who won't have any trouble quelling the rioters in Cyprus and carrying off the order: "Keep up your bright swords."

Age is not, he says, a prerequisite for the part of Othello. "He is a general and a fighting one at that. We have, as it happens, cut the line about the 'vale of years', but it wouldn't make any difference if it were there. He is insecure at that point; he is black and he's aware of the distance between himself and

**THEATRE:** He set young hearts aflutter as Romeo. Now Ray Fearon has changed his image for Othello, as Heather Neill discovers

Desdemona, who is very young. But after all, she is, as Iago says, a "supersubte Venetian"; she wouldn't fall for an old man. She is one of the strongest characters in the play: she stands up in the Senate before the Duke and goes to war to join Othello."

Fearon is 31 now and when he took on Romeo he said that playing a much younger character was the hardest thing he had had to do. He was already used to princes and generals and had even played Othello at 24, although he would prefer not to talk about that. "It's just that it has no bearing on the way I'm doing it now," he explains.

Fearon is an RSC veteran — this is his fourth season since 1993 — and he has benefited from the system. He has graduated reasonably quickly to leading roles and learnt much from senior members of the company, including how to tackle the verse, having taken masterclasses from John Barton and Adrian Noble. "People are unfair to the RSC; it is doing a hell of a lot for young actors." With insufficient training opportunities in regional theatre, pressure falls on the major companies. Fearon says that he was unusually lucky in that he cut his dramatic teeth in Oxford, Liverpool and Manchester.

The Fearon career curve is scarcely typical, however. The fifth of seven chil-

**'This is a play about wanting to know the truth'**

dren, he began to get work in television commercials when he was still at school in West London. Opportunities rolled in — he was in Caryl Churchill's *Serious Money*, for instance — but he decided he "didn't know enough" about his profession and went belatedly to drama school in his early twenties. "I deliberately went out of London — to Rose Bruford College in Kent — so that I wouldn't be tempted to take jobs." He paid his way by training to be a tennis coach. He had played in the England junior team and says that life might have been very different if the Greater London Council had not ceased to exist and funding for young players dried up.

Fearon laughs when reminded that he said playing young Romeo was the biggest challenge. "I

was wrong. Othello is a very difficult part. There is a danger of burning your flame too early. It hurtles at such a pace, you could run out of steam. You could be tempted to think you're on the right track and, after the jealousy scene, go mad and shout."

He is aware of the need for a sense of balance. "I don't want to overplay the race card, to go overboard. Othello is an outsider, but he does really love Desdemona, has been invited to her father's house, and whatever is said about him, he's the best man for the job

and he knows it. As a soldier used to war he is going into unfamiliar territory. He and Iago have fought together, confided in each other, perhaps saved each other's lives. Iago is a married man; it's natural that Othello would take the advice of a more experienced man. Othello is open and honest, but then jealousy becomes an addiction. It is a play about wanting to know the truth. He must have proof, but he never stops loving Desdemona. At the end he is right, though; he never has been accepted."

Fearon is very much aware of the power of the language, noting that Othello lapses into prose when he is out of control and that he "catches" Iago's choice of bestial comparisons when his mind has been poisoned by the work. The play is intense, like a pressure cooker. The language has to do the work: it's not easy, but it's worth the adventure. Othello is like a pendulum, swings one way and then another, after the fit (which I think is a sort of panic attack) he contradicts himself from line to line. He changes his own mind."

As a young actor tackling one of the great roles, Fearon couldn't be happier. "I love Shakespeare. These parts are so huge, so deep, they make you question yourself all the time." Ten years ago the opera singer Willard White played Othello in an RSC production directed by Trevor Nunn for The Other Place in Stratford and the Young Vic in London. But Fearon says proudly: "I am the next black person to Paul Robeson to play the part on the main Stratford stage. And to me that is an honour."

Othello opens at the Royal Shakespeare Theatre in Stratford (01752 375621) on Wednesday

## Three ways to ask a question

A night of Unanswered Questions. First came Charles Ives's work of that name. Then the questing gestures of Carl Ruggles, and finally Bruckner's Ninth Symphony, his farewell to life, its closing movement unbroken. No two concert-halves could have been more contrasted. Ives and Ruggles passed like brief apparitions, while, under Michael Tilson Thomas, the Bruckner was vast, solid and full of straight lines.

The almost military precision with which he marshalled this reading threw a naked light on the work. His was not the slow, inevitable unfolding of a Haydn. He drew attention to the moments when the music stops, its apparent non sequiturs, closed doors and cul-de-sacs. This was no sense of a stream of consciousness; rather, rank upon rank of sequences, calling to mind the leaves that Bruckner counted on trees.

With an orchestra of the quality of the London Symphony, this approach can be invigorating: a restrained opening broke into a glorious smile for the song-like outpouring. Such beauty of sound and control of phrasing makes its impact, especially in the context of an impressive range of timbres.

A melodramatic programme note warned that the Scherzo and Trio was "musical madness"; but here there was a well-behaved piano path at work. One couldn't wish for music more packed with premonition. In its terrific

### CONCERTS

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ing hammer blows and merciful dances a modern audience hears Shostakovich; in the fiery trio, up pops Prokofiev. Winds were pristine, and brass, though coping with the strains imposed by Wagner tubas, responded splendidly.

From the expansive to the soul of conscience, Ives's *Unanswered Question* never ceases to astonish with its deft, disjunct originality. An off-stage string group intone diatonic music (here marred by sharp lower strings), a lone trumpet calls into the emptiness while four winds on stage conduct a fierce dialogue. The listener has the weird sensation of hearing three ages of music simultaneously: one rooted in Western harmony, one a Romantic utterance, the last a fierce questioning of both.

Ruggles's first *Evocation* belonged to the same world, its delicate dissonances hanging like a veil behind which the music explores itself at an uncanny pace. In the energetic arguments one could hear the influence of Schoenberg (Ruggles changed his name from Charles to Carl to sound more German). But there is freshness and modesty behind his airy, angular lines.

HELEN WALLACE

## Master pianist in Romantic mood

E ven though he is a regular visitor to London, the Italian pianist Maurizio Pollini never fails to fill the Festival Hall. He could probably play anything — indeed, he has one of the widest repertoires in the business — and still draw a big, adoring crowd.

But a turnout smaller than that would have been surprising, given a programme consisting of Schubert and Schumann, two gentle giants of the piano literature. These two composers also represent a logical way forward after Pollini's recent cycle of the complete Beethoven sonatas.

Life after Beethoven has given Pollini renewed energy and focus: some of the concerts in that epic cycle had found him slightly weary, but here he sounded fresh again, at least for most of the evening. There were a few bumpy moments in the heady finale of Schubert's Sonata in B flat, D960, and passages in the elusive first movement that may have been a little one-dimensional. But the capture this music's great heart of the work.

Schumann's seldom-played Allegro in B minor, Op 8, started life as the opening of a sonata, and here the form is even freer. It is really rhapsodic, a melting pot of strong and passionate ideas. Pollini's interpretation was full of ardour, and each of the themes was fully characterised.

Perhaps the highlight of the evening was Schumann's *Fantastic* in C, Op 17, given a performance of freedom and tenderness. Parts of the opening movement found Pollini in full flood, just as he was again in the first of his encores, Chopin's *Ballade No 1*, but he dampened things down in the eerie middle section. The imposing second movement bristled with excitement, and the introverted finale had song-like simplicity. Truly satisfying Schumann like this is the mark of a great pianist.

JOHN ALLISON

### This week in THE TIMES



#### ■ OPERA

Rosemary Joshua sings the title role in ENO's new production of *Semele*. OPENINGS: Tonight. REVIEW: Wednesday



#### ■ DANCE

Performance artist Graeme Miller brings his *Country Dance to the Place*. OPENINGS: Tomorrow. REVIEW: Thursday



#### ■ THEATRE

Fangs Ain't Wot They Used To Be, in tribute to Lionel Bart at Hornchurch. OPENINGS: Tonight. REVIEW: Wednesday



#### ■ FILM

Inside the seedy world of hardcore porn: Nicolas Cage investigates in *8mm*. RELEASED: Friday. REVIEW: Thursday

PLUS: The conductor Daniel Harding leads the LPO at the RFH, tomorrow

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# The Queen avoids a Scots quagmire

Ancient royal survival skills are on display in Edinburgh

The "modernisation" of the monarchy is about to take an intriguing new twist. The Government's constitutional reform programme has been keenly followed in Buckingham Palace. The proposals — the Human Rights Act, Lords reform, devolution and so on — swirl around the Royal Family without challenging their position. Claims that removing hereditary peers from the Lords is bound to threaten the future of the monarchy are not shared. But a potentially far-reaching, though so far largely ignored, change in the prerogative powers is about to occur in Scotland.

The royal prerogative is a minister, since most of the powers — public appointments, ratifying treaties and the like — are made by the Prime Minister and other ministers in the name of the Crown. Tony Benn has for long been campaigning (now with the backing of an all-party group) to make these executive prerogatives subject to parliamentary approval. But the Crown retains some personal prerogatives, notably the appointment of a Prime Minister and over the dissolution of Parliament.

In most cases, the role of the monarch is a formality. A general election produces a clear-cut result, or a Prime Minister retires and is replaced by a leader elected by the party. But it has not always been so straightforward. Several times this century, the monarchy has been involved in controversy — including the long constitutional battles of 1909-11, the appointment of Baldwin in 1933, the formation of the National Government in 1931, and the selection of Macmillan in 1957 and Home in 1963.

The monarch was in danger of being drawn into highly partisan arguments, rather standing above the party fray. The Tories' decision to elect their leader from 1965 onwards removed the Crown from many such situations, but not all. Four general elections since 1945 have produced no overall majority, or single-figure majorities, resulting in uncertainty about who should be Prime Minister or when a fresh election should be called. There are no public guidelines: only the overriding priority of advisers in Whitehall and Buckingham Palace not to drag the monarchy into partisan controversy. The way out has usually been obvious.

That would all change if Britain shifted from first-past-the-post to proportional representation for the Commons. For most of the time, no party would be able to command a majority on its own. Elsewhere in Europe, lengthy negotiations often occur before coalitions are formed. Under existing British conventions, the monarchy would have to balance conflicting claims.

As Vernon Bogdanor has written in his authoritative *The Monarchy and the Constitution*: "New rules would need to be developed to reflect the new realities of political power and to ensure that the impartiality of the Sovereign was preserved." That is exactly what will arise in Scotland

[peter.riddell@the-times.co.uk](mailto:peter.riddell@the-times.co.uk)

## It's spring, Boris Yeltsin is back in his shell and all's right with the world. Suddenly, Russia is seeming like a friendly old bear again

It is finally spring in Russia. Not the grey slush, freezing rain and bleak skies kind of spring that seems to bring such joy to Russians and such bafflement to foreigners ("Ooooh, spring!" they say excitedly when the black snow at the side of the roads starts to slosh on to the pavement), but real spring, with birds singing and buds on the trees and the President back on his throne.

At the end of winter the mood of your Russian lightens and he pulls all the insulation out of the gaps in the windows and starts doing what he does best, which is enjoy himself. Boris Yeltsin is a prime example of this. The moment the clocks went forward and the icicles began to drop off everyone's balconies (many serious injuries) he bounced back from the dead, slung around some heavy-handed hints and threats, stopped the communists

and nationalists (who thought they were on to a good thing under Prime Minister Primakov) in their tracks, and set about having a really good time.

The relish with which he swilled back a glass of champagne with that icon to vulgarity Alla Pugacheva the other day in the Kremlin while her ludicrous boy husband looked sheepishly on (Filip Kirkorov recently flooded the airwaves with his hit *O Mama, chich'a dam*) was a clear sign to everyone that spring was in the air. Never mind all the wintry reports that the President had been having trouble walking, he practically ran into the room to sweep the unsuspecting pop star off her feet.

Suddenly everyone is making an occasion of everything. All the birthday parties held over the winter were slightly hysterical affairs at which the object was to stave off the chill by drinking as

much as possible as quickly as possible. This desperation is typified by the song *Vsavai Naiva!*, which involves a short verse asking who around the table was born in January, February, March and so on and then another verse forcing them to stand up and empty their glass to the cheers of everyone else. If it is your birthday, the person with the guitar/accordion returns to your month over and over until you can no longer either stand or pour, as the song demands.

Now, though, the need to lighten the atmosphere with drink has diminished slightly and people are loafing around the city's restaurants and cafés in a more relaxed manner, bringing huge bouquets of spring

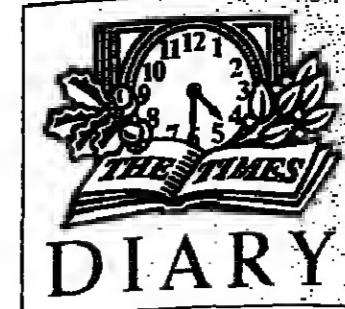
flowers to stand at the head of the birthday table. Spring toasts seem longer and even more sincere, smiles less drunken and the air inside less fendi.

An English visitor moved the table at a Georgian restaurant last week to joyous tears with his largely ironic (and admittedly shoddily translated) toast dedicated to the Russian writers he had known and loved and his pleasure at walking in their very footsteps. This inspired the Russian guests to leap up and start reciting Pushkin, much to the cynical Englishman's confusion. But as they said their poems the Georgian musicians played sad mountain songs and couples got up from their tables to dance. Russians will take any opportunity

to not to think about the economic crisis, the war in Kosovo, the President's possible impeachment, or anything remotely pertaining to the dismal, and a few rays of sunshine through the gloom are enough to set them off dancing, drinking and singing until next winter.

Indeed, every winter a kind of depressive pessimism sneaks into people's souls, foreigners not excepted, and newspaper reports talk of revolution, civil war and the end of Russia as we know it. Doom-monger politicians insist that the only reason the populace is not demonstrating on the streets is because it is cold, and that the moment the sun comes out the Government will really have something to answer for. The communists and nationalists, who as we know love nothing better than a bit of popularity-boosting adversity, are beside themselves with

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## Pound foolish

TWO new members of the lottery aristocracy have been spurned by Coutts. Laura and Lucy Gibney, respectively a barmaid and factory worker from Grimsby, naturally turned to the Queen's bankers after they received £1 million apiece last July from the £7.5 million win of Roy, their father.

But Coutts treated the teenagers with such smoothness, I hear, that they took their business elsewhere. "The girls were treated extremely badly," I am told. "Some horrible toff talked to them as if they were idiots. So the girls went to another high street bank instead."

AS AN eclectic mix of protesters led by Tony Benn and Arthur Scargill gathered tardily in Hyde Park over the weekend for an anti-Nato demonstration, one straight-faced steward said to another: "I blame those wretched anarchists for the late start. They never do what they are told."

■ SOPHIE RHYS-JONES (below left) has been pad-hunting in Mundesley. The future Mrs Windsor is considering buying a base in London to complement Bagshot Park, her marital mansion in Surrey, and has been inspecting properties in Artesian Road.

The W2 address would mean that the royal couple would have Henry Dent Brocklehurst and Lili Mallesse, his wife (right), living in the same street. But, more pertinently, Artesian Road meets Northumberland Place, where Geoffrey Robinson helped Peter Mandelson to buy the exquisite terraced house which cost him his job.



Should the Windsors buy a pad in that neck of the woods, they will have also made a very good investment indeed. The neighbourhood is expected to become even more sought-after once *Notting Hill*, the movie with Hugh Grant and Julia Roberts filmed in the quarter, is released.

WILLIAM HAGUE was handed a blue starflower by the local branch of the Cancer Research Campaign in his Richmond powerbase during the weekend. The flower, the charity's new logo, is used in homeopathic circles as a cure for melancholy.

■ BAD news for Beryl Bainbridge makes me wonder why Patricia Hewitt risked political embarrassment by allegedly arranging for her son to jump the queue for a North London school.

Charlie Bainbridge's grandson has been a pupil at William Ellis, Hewitt Jr's new alma mater, but has just been turned down by Oxford. He was hoping to have read English and history, but will now be studying at Warwick University instead.



LORD BRAGG needs some stamina to remain a Renaissance man. On Wednesday evening he watched Arsenal, his team, play *Man U* and then dissected the game with friends until midnight. But at 9 o'clock the next morning, Bragg popped up on Radio 4 for half an hour discussing Darwinian evolution with two of the world's experts on the subject.

■ TONY BLAIR'S campaign to dilute the preponderance of white, middle-aged, heterosexual men in public life has spread to the frontiers. The PM has been noticing that the Foreign Office's "greats and meeters" — retired sorts who welcome foreign dignitaries off their aeroplanes at Heathrow — give the impression that Britain is run by a bunch of old duffers. To liven up HM's handshakers, Blair has seen that Shahwar Sadeq, a British-Muslim and former BBC governor, has joined their ranks.

EDWARD WELSH

مكتبة من الأصل

## ON TWO FRONTS

The politics of the Kosovo campaign must be got right

Today's debate on Kosovo in the House of Commons will expose Robin Cook and George Robertson's tougher cross-examination than they have had so far. Yesterday MPs heard Tony Blair repeat that "the important thing is to see the strategy we have through". By that he means the air war; but the more mass graves NATO identifies, the faster the Serbs empty Kosovo, the more civilians get hurt and the greater the damage to civil infrastructure, the harder it will be to prevent bombing as the sole means to the necessary end.

The Prime Minister and the Defence Secretary have edged towards acknowledging that in the past few days, both have gone on record that "we keep every single option under review". The Foreign Secretary, by contrast, has been at pains to dampen any expectations that a land campaign is seriously in prospect. Only yesterday, he insisted that NATO would need two to three months to build up the forces required and added that the Alliance was not prepared for the heavy casualties that an opposed land offensive would entail. The Government must speak with one voice today — and the voice should be that of Mr Blair and his Defence Secretary.

Firmness and clarity of purpose are vital, because NATO is in a longer, tougher and more ferocious war than most MPs expected four weeks ago. The campaign has to be fought on two fronts, political as well as military. The abominable forced exodus from Kosovo rallied support for NATO throughout Europe and America; but in the past few days, NATO's continued and inexcusable failure to disclose the full truth about the bombed Kosovo convoy has rendered the political front less steady.

The incident has further dented public confidence, never strong, in the efficacy of relying solely on air power to force Slobodan Milošević to halt the atrocities and pull his forces out. In Britain, opinion

is shifting towards the inevitability of committing troops. Ministers must be prepared publicly to address the critical question, which is whether the Alliance's so far remarkable degree of unity would crack under a change of strategy. They would be well advised not to evade it in today's debate, for this Friday in Washington, NATO's long-planned 50th anniversary summit will force the least nuance of disagreement into the open.

There is no point in pretending that none exists, within as well as between NATO governments. In Germany, the readiness of Joschka Fischer, the Foreign Minister, to override pacifist sentiment in his own Green Party has been a small political miracle; but he embarrassed EU leaders last week with a plan, which they hurriedly stilled, that included a 24-hour "negotiating pause" to the bombing. In Greece, an indispensable logistical base for any ground offensive, the Government faces a surge of anti-Americanism. In France, President Chirac and Lionel Jospin have rallied NATO with bipartisan determination, but lower down, the political front looks less solid. There is grumbling in Spain, where support for NATO has always been tepid. Italy's Prime Minister, Massimo D'Alema, has to deal not only with the threatened defection of hardline Communists from his coalition, but with opportunistic manoeuvring by centrists, including his Foreign Minister, Lamberto Dini.

None of this means, however, that NATO cannot hold the line, for a ground war if necessary. Western public understanding of what is at stake is clearer than it ever was over Bosnia. Signor D'Alema's popularity has risen in direct proportion to his firmness in supporting NATO; so has that of M Chirac and M Jospin. But at this critical juncture, decisive leadership is essential. If politicians falter, so too will their deeply moved but legitimately anxious voters.

## NO ROOM FOR COMPROMISE

Why Britain must say a flat 'no' to an EU withholding tax

British officials left the weekend's informal meeting in Dresden of European Union finance ministers (Ecofin) saying, with relief, that it had been "the most boring Ecofin" in memory. That is just the impression that Hans Eichel, who this month succeeded Oskar Lafontaine as German Finance Minister, was out to make. But it is deceptive. Bonn and Paris have modified their tactics since Herr Lafontaine's abrupt resignation; but the strategy of EU fiscal harmonisation is unchanged, as is the French ambition to make the euro-II finance ministers the core of what the French Finance Minister, Dominique Strauss-Kahn, insists will be a "European economic government".

The benchmark by which these intentions must be judged is the EU's pernicious draft directive on the taxation of investment income. Nothing was decided at Dresden. But Gordon Brown is no closer to securing the only acceptable decision, which is to abandon it. The idea is deceptively simple — the deduction of a uniform minimum withholding tax of 20 per cent from interest payments on invested savings held by EU citizens anywhere in the Union. In theory, all EU citizens would then pay their "fair" share of taxes, no matter how or where they invested their money. The justification put forward is that tax policies must be harmonised if the single market is to work properly — which, as the differing tax policies of American state governments shows, is not true; and that the directive would combat tax evasion. What, say its advocates, could be wrong with that?

The answers are that the precedent is a bad one and that the directive's consequences, particularly for the City of London but also for EU financial services, would be appalling. Mr Brown seems ready to concede the principle of tax harmonisation, provided that he can obtain an exemption

for eurobonds. Such damage limitation is not good enough. He must win both the eurobond battle and the wider war.

The City is pre-eminent in the trillion-pound eurobond market, a prime target of the tax. Its imposition would cost thousands of City jobs, because the business would migrate to non-EU markets, such as Zurich, where bond trading is tax-exempt. The tax would also hurt anyone with shares in pension funds. According to the World Bank, about 70 per cent of investors in eurobonds are institutions such as pension funds. Under the EU plan they would pay withholding tax on every trade made, instead of reinvesting that money.

Capital can desert markets overnight. The City's dominance in euromarkets dates from the 1950s, when America's balance of payments deficit washed up pools of dollars in Europe. "Eurodollars" were deposited with London banks because London was a centre of currency dealing. The market settled here to stay, thanks to excess regulation elsewhere. New York, for example, lost out on eurobonds in 1963, when President Kennedy introduced a tax on foreign bond issues in the domestic dollar market. They have been vital ever since to the City's vigorous expansion.

International investors favour London not only because it has a deep pool of talented financiers, but because regulations and taxes remain benign. Adopting any EU-wide withholding tax would drive much of this business to more tax-friendly centres. British resistance to this directive has already been met by threats to end the individual national veto on tax policy. But neither this directive, nor the dilution of the veto, can be imposed without British assent. Tony Blair will be told that to use Britain's veto would discredit him as a "good European". In the interest not just of the City, but of EU financial markets, he must resist all demands for compromise.

## BRIXTON'S BRAVERY

A nail bomb cannot destroy the will to live together

Random, terrifying violence on a busy shopping street is the hallmark of the terrorist and the psychopath. In Ulster, culminating in the atrocity in Omagh, it has become worryingly rare, despite the growing tendency of extremists to exploit the publicity that horror brings. Brixton is the latest community to suffer. The nail bomb that on Saturday left at least 48 people injured, some seriously, was timed to explode when it would cause the greatest carnage. When the ceasefire in Ulster is holding, however precariously, outrage will be particularly keen.

So far, no group has claimed responsibility. Speculation has focused on a lone attacker, possibly similar to, or even inspired by, the so-called Mardi Gras bomber. There is also the likelihood of a racist motive. Given Brixton's ethnic mix, anyone wishing to stir up racial hatred, or to take perverse revenge on the black community in the wake of the Stephen Lawrence report, might have chosen this south London symbol of black Britain to detonate a parcel bomb of hatred.

What is clear is the courage and quick thinking of all those caught up in the incident. Years of vigilance and familiarity

with bomb warnings have taught people to avoid suspicious packages. The man who spotted what looked like a bomb and calmly carried the holdall to a wall where it would do less harm heroically risked his life in an attempt to save others. The police who ran towards the explosion and the passers-by who rushed in to help the injured did what they humanly could, ignoring their own shock and the risk of a second device going off. As the ambulances were on their way, people were already offering first aid and comfort.

Brixton is a resilient place, however. It has had to be. With more than its fair share of troubles in the past 30 years, it has learnt to turn adversity to its advantage. Lacking wealth, jobs and beauty, Brixton has seen race riots and race hatred, police brutality and police victimisation, segregation and prejudice. There have been national inquiries and government resolutions. But since 1981, the district has fought back. Urban regeneration, imaginative integration initiatives, the kindling of ethnic pride amid racial diversity have made Brixton now a symbol more of hope than of deprivation.

No wonder Nelson Mandela asked to go there. Its streets hum with life; no deranged terrorist can destroy their vibrant variety.

## Opinion polls and monetary union

From Mr David Davis, MP for Halesowen and Rowley (Conservative), and others

Sir, You report (April 12) the conflicting results of opinion polls about business attitudes to economic and monetary union. Yet it will be the people who will decide this crucial issue, not the business community, and public opposition to replacing the pound by the euro is being underestimated.

Peter Riddell has rightly noted (article, March 11) that some recent polls have featured "a slightly altered question". However, the only objective way to assess changes, if any, in public opinion is to ask the identical basic question repeatedly.

On October 2 and 3, 1998, an ICM poll commissioned by Julian Lewis, MP, asked: "Do you think that Britain should replace the pound with the single European currency?" Thirty-two per cent replied "Yes"; 56 per cent replied "No".

However, on February 11, *The Guardian* newspaper claimed that its own ICM poll showed that "support in Britain to join the euro has surged to its highest ever level", with 36 per cent in favour and 52 per cent opposed. This poll made no reference to replacing the pound.

ICM was immediately commissioned to repeat the question, with the October 1998 wording. The fieldwork was carried out between March 5 and 7, before the resignation of the European Commission. This time the results were 30 per cent "Yes" and 60 per cent "No".

This shows that public opinion has, if anything, become more hostile to EMU over the past six months, and that findings to the contrary during this period are likely to have resulted from changes in the wording of poll questions, not in public opinion itself.

Yours faithfully,  
DAVID DAVIS,  
SYDNEY CHAPMAN,  
ERIC FORTH,  
MICHAEL SPICER,  
House of Commons.  
April 14.

From the Chief Executive of Business for Sterling

Sir, Your report, "business moves in favour of euro in new poll" (April 12), featured the results of a survey which not only sampled just 200 firms, but also excluded the 95 per cent of Britain's 3.7 million businesses which have less than £1 million turnover.

The survey we commissioned from ICM, showing that 63 per cent of businesses are opposed to the euro (report, March 31), is the only one to survey all sizes of business, and its sample of 1,000 is the biggest. Your report's assertion that this poll "overemphasised" the views of smaller businesses is simply wrong. The overall results were correctly weighted to mirror the structure of the whole business community. Unweighted, they overrepresented big business by a factor of 50.

The CBI and Britain in Europe are defending an increasingly desperate position. Minutes of the CBI's economic affairs committee meeting in July 1998 reveal that they ruled out "a completely random survey of businesses", which would be the ultimate gauge of firms' attitudes to UK membership of EMU", on the ground that "complication might, however, arise in reconciling the survey results with the existing CBI position if the outcome turned out to be less pro-EMU". They opted instead to encourage a *Financial Times* survey in association with MORI, which again excluded small business from the sample (letters, November 30 and December 3, 1998).

In his Budget speech the Chancellor of the Exchequer said that small businesses were "the very firms whose growth will create the greatest number of new jobs". These businesses are responsible for a growing share of national employment. It is no longer acceptable for pollsters or those who represent business to ignore them.

Yours faithfully,  
NICK HERBERT,  
Chief Executive,  
Business for Sterling,  
18 Buckingham Gate, SW1 6PE.  
April 13.

## Splitting hairs

From Dr Patrick Bye

Sir, Nigel Hawkes has done a service to science by reporting (April 13) Dr Erik Hagelberg's important discovery relevant to the origin and dispersal of Homo sapiens.

During my preclinical course at Jesus College, Cambridge, I had the pleasure of tutorials with Professor Duckworth, the founder of the collection from which came the hairs of Andaman islanders studied by Dr Hagelberg.

I am certain that the late Professor Duckworth, who was the medically qualified Professor of Anatomy, would have been delighted that his old (and now probably dusty) specimens could still make a valuable contribution to scientific research.

The objection to Dr Hagelberg's work from the present director of the collection, and his ludicrous appeal to political correctness, seem unworthy.

Yours,  
PATRICK BYE,  
Keeper's Cottage, Piltown,  
Uckfield, East Sussex TN22 3XT.  
April 14.

مكتبة الأهل

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

## Tragedy funds 'perpetuate grief'

From Mr Geoffrey Morgan

Sir, I was saddened about the service of remembrance to those who died at Hillsborough (report, April 16). Everyone experiences the loss of a loved one through death. The rituals of mourning enable those left behind to recover from their loss and continue with their lives.

It is more difficult where others share grief in the same circumstances — Hillsborough, Aberfan, Lockerbie, etc. The pursuit of "justice" or "the truth" by the relatives seems to me a means to perpetuate grief and perhaps avoid responsibilities to the living.

At the time of the Bradford football fire disaster in May 1985, I offered my services to the newly appointed trustee and discussed what I perceived as the Aberfan fund's failings. The Bradford fund did not seek charitable status and whatever grants were made to beneficiaries remained confidential.

When it was wound up I complimented the trustee on the speed, skill and compassion with which its work had been completed with an almost total absence of controversy. He was kind enough to observe that he had taken on board the discussion we had had previously and avoided the mistakes made at Aberfan.

Let the dead rest in peace.

Yours faithfully,  
GEOFFREY MORGAN  
(Secretary/Treasurer,  
Aberfan Disaster Fund, 1969-71),  
Rose Cottage,  
Ludwicks Lane, Waltham Chase,  
Southampton SO32 2NP.  
geof@morgan.freemail.co.uk  
April 16.

## Change of tune at Glyndebourne

From Mr Alan Blyth

Sir, I am seriously concerned by Nicholas Snowman's plans for Glyndebourne and your editorial support for them (article, "Fasces your summer bands...," and leading article April 14). Works such as *Oreto*, *Tristan und Isolde*, *Wozzeck* and *Birtwistle's Mask of Orpheus*, heavy fare by any standard, have been and should continue to be the province of the major companies in London, whose work Glyndebourne will simply be duplicating.

Glyndebourne should continue to present, as its core repertoire, its supreme Mozart, rehearsed in a manner not possible at more cash-strapped houses, along with early opera, rare Handel and Rossini and little-known Czech repertoire (no shortage of masterpieces to be explored in any of these areas), works not available elsewhere in this country and ideal fare for a summer evening in the Sussex Downs.

Are we really never to see and hear again in the house such joys as Handel's *Theodora* and Rossini's *Le Comte Ory*? I hope not. Having worked in subsidised surroundings for most of his career, Snowman perhaps forgoes that Glyndebourne has to provide a fare that will please its public, not give us some "radical-chic" concept out of kilter, in my view, with the intentions of Glyndebourne's founder.

Yours faithfully,  
ALAN BLYTH,  
22 Shilling Street,  
Lavenham, Suffolk CO10 9RH.  
April 15.

From Mr Robin Howard

Sir, Nicholas Snowman appears to have excellent plans for the repertory, but will he please give his attention also to the availability of tickets?

When the new opera house was opened it was stated that a greater proportion of seats would be available to the public, as opposed to members. My wife and I, having always immensely enjoyed our visits, were most disappointed this year when, although on the mailing list, we were informed that all tickets for all performances of *The Barber of Seville* had sold before public booking could commence.

As this was the only production we wished to see, we shall have to forgo our visit to Glyndebourne this year.

Yours faithfully,  
ROBIN HOWARD,  
New Timbers,  
8 Upfield, Croydon CR0 5DP.  
April 15.

## Trafalgar Square plinth

From Mr L. A. Yeats

Sir, King Charles I lost his head in Whitehall. Anyone wanting to see his statue on its island at the junction of Whitehall and Trafalgar Square at close quarters risks injury of a less permanent but nevertheless damaging nature from the never-ending flow of traffic.

A solution to the problem of the empty plinth on the other side of the square (news in brief, April 10) would be to move King Charles. This would make it easier for people to see one of London's best pieces of statuary, relieve traffic congestion by removing the need for the island and place the King in close proximity to statues of his succeeding relatives — his son James II, George III and George IV — history and genealogy lessons combined.

It would also have the advantage of obviating the need to commission a new statue (a good thing given the dire quality of some recent London statues and monuments), thereby saving money.

Yours,  
L. A. YEATS,  
Oakley Gardens,  
Downhead Park,  
Milton Keynes MK15 9BH.  
April 13.

## Top brass

From Mrs P. Pountney

Sir, Today's report of the memorial service for Lord Lewin makes me wonder if we have more Admirals (all classes) than HM ships?

Yours faithfully,  
P. POUNTNEY,  
112 High Street,  
Broughton, Kettering NN14 1NQ.  
April 14.

## Millennium babies

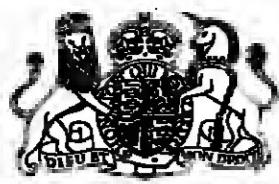
From Mr Douglas J. Bugler

Sir, The recent talk about planning for a millennium baby (reports, March 23, 27 and April 6) reminds us that without any planning or thought on the subject (other than the usual ones) our son was born on September 9, 1949, as, no doubt, were many others.

This year will see their 50th birthdays on 9.9.1999, which just goes to show how clever you can be when you leave it to nature.

Your faithfully,  
D. J. BUGLER,  
5 Winston Court,  
Lymington Road,  
New Milton, Hampshire BH25 6PG.  
April 11.

Letters to the Editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — 0171-782 5046. e-mail to: letters@the-times.co.uk



## COURT CIRCULAR

**BUCKINGHAM PALACE**  
April 17: The Princess Royal, Chief Commandant for Women in the Royal Navy, accompanied by Commodore Timothy Lawrence, Royal Navy, this morning visited the Royal Naval Reserve Training Centre at HMS Forward, Tilton Road, Birmingham and was met on arrival by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of the West Midlands (Mr Robert Taylor).

**BUCKINGHAM PALACE**

April 18: The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh left Heathrow Airport this evening for the State Visit to the Republic of Korea.

Her Majesty and His Royal Highness were received at the airport by the Rt Hon the Lord Cammey (Lord Chamberlain), Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant for Greater London (The Lord Imber), Minister Choi Jong-moo

(Acting Head of Mission, Korean Embassy), the Lord Marshall (Chairman, British Airways), Sir John Egan (Chief Executive, British Airport Authority), and Mr Roger Cato (Managing Director, Heathrow Airport).

The following are in attendance:

the Rt Hon Derek Fatchett, MP (Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs); His Excellency Mr Stephen Brown (Her Majesty's Ambassador to the Republic of Korea) and Mrs Brown.

The Countess of Airlie, the Rt Hon Sir Robin Janvrin, Major-General Sir Simon Cooper, Mrs Mary Francis, Miss Penny Russell-Smith, Surgeon Captain David Swain, RN, Air Commodore the Hon Timothy Elworthy, Squadron Leader Simon Braileford, RAF, Brigadier Miles Hunt-Davis, Mr Frank Baker and Mr Russ Dixon.

### Today's royal engagements

The Princess Royal, president, Animal Health Trust, will attend the Lord's Taverners spring lunch at the London Hilton on Park Lane, at 12.45.

The Duchess of Gloucester opens Claire House Children's Hospice, Bebington, Wirral, at 1.40; visits West Kirby Residential School (for special needs) at 2.15; and as honorary president, Lawn Tennis Association, visits Bidston Moss Tennis Centre, Birkenhead, at 3.30.

For more details about the Royal Family visit the royal website at [www.royal.gov.uk](http://www.royal.gov.uk)

### Service luncheons

Trucial Oman Scouts  
The annual luncheon for officers of the Trucial Oman Levies, Trucial Oman Scouts, and the Union Defence Force was held on Friday at the Army and Navy Club.

**10th Baluch Regiment**  
On the occasion of the VC/GC reunion, Officers of the 10th Baluch Regiment entertained at luncheon on Friday, at the Army & Navy Club, Captain Bhandari Ram, their last surviving holder of the Victoria Cross, Major F.A. Rowley presided.

### Reception

Baroness Dorey de Knayth Baroness Dorey de Knayth, President of Skill (National Bureau for Students with Disabilities) was the host at a reception on Friday at the House of Lords to mark the 25th anniversary, Lord Ashley of Stoke, CH, Lord Morris of Manchester and Mr Barbara Waters, chief executive, were the speakers.

### Meeting

International Military Music Society  
Major Richard Powell was guest speaker at the spring meeting of the UK branch of the International Military Music Society at Eastbourne yesterday. Mr John Anderson chairman presided.

## Nature notes

SEDGE warblers are back from Africa and singing their rich, babbling song in reeds and willows. They usually skulk out of sight, but sometimes throw themselves up into the air to sing. They can be distinguished from reed warblers, which will also soon be arriving, by their bright yellow eye-stripes. Hobbies are back on heaths and lonely farmland: they are small, fast-flying hawks that feed on dragonflies or on birds they can catch in the air, such as house martins. Skylarks are nesting in corn and grass: they may be found on any broad open space from moorland to golf courses and airfields.

The whole countryside is turning bright green. Woodpeckers turnabout in the trees, trying to get at the juicy, unfolding leaf-buds. Some horse-chestnut trees and hawthorn bushes are already in full foliage. New flowers open

### Birthdays today

The Earl of Annandale and Hartell, 88; Mr William Ballinger, former president, Royal Scottish Academy, 76; the Most Rev Luigi Barbaro, former Apostolic Nuncio, 77; Miss Sue Barker, tennis player and sports commentator, 43; Mr Dickie Bird, cricket umpire, 66; Mr Antonio Carluccio, restaurateur, 62; Mr Algy Cluff, chairman of Cluff Mining, 59; Mr Adrian Coles, director-general, Building Societies Association, 45; Mr Glyn England, director, the Wind Fund, 75; Mr Trevor Francis, football manager, 45; Lord Justice Henry, 68; Sir John Horlock, QC, former Vice-Chancellor, Open University, 71; Mr G.B. Inglis, former senior partner, Slaughter and May, 66; Mr Dudley Moore, actor and composer, 64; Mr Grafton Morgan, actor, 68; Mr Murray Perahia, pianist, 52; Mr Richard Phelps, pentathlete, 38; Lord Justice Roch, 65; Mr Michel Roux, chef and restaurateur, 58; Mr Will Stevenson, director, Smith Institute, 52; Miss Bridget Towle, Chief Guide, Guide Association, 57; the Hon Michael Trend, MP, 47; Miss Ruby Wax, actress and comedian, 40; Mr Philip Wroughton, Lord-Lieutenant of Berkshire, 60.

### Service dinners

South Notts Hussars  
Yeomanry  
Colonel LD Clapp presided at the annual dinner of the 150th Regiment South Notts Hussars Yeomanry RHA TA held on Saturday at the Stratford Hotel, Nottingham.

**RAF Oxford & Cambridge Society**

Dr Colin Lucas, Vice-Chancellor of Oxford, Col. Richard Cheshire, Chief Marshal Sir Richard John, Chief of the Air Staff, were the guests of honour at the annual dinner of the RAF Oxford and Cambridge Society held on Friday at Magdalen College, Oxford, Air Marshal Sir Timothy Gurney presided.

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## OBITUARIES

مكانت الأجل

## LORD CAYZER

Lord Cayzer, Chairman of British and Commonwealth Shipping, 1953-57, and of Caledonia Investments, 1958-94, died on April 16 aged 89. He was born on January 21, 1910.

For many years one of the bastions of the City's shipping community, Nicholas Cayzer was the grandson of Sir Charles Cayzer, 1st Baronet, the founder of Clan Line Steamers, whose merger with Union Castle led to the creation of British and Commonwealth Shipping in 1955. The years of Nicholas Cayzer's stewardship were ones of steady decline in the British shipping industry. At the turn of the century half the world's merchant ships had flown the British flag and even in 1950 Britain still had 30 per cent of the ships afloat.

By 1960 that figure was down to 15 per cent and ten years later stood at 11 per cent. The next decade saw an acceleration in the decline and

by the end of it the figure was down to below 5 per cent.

But Cayzer was shrewd businessman as well as a proud shipowner. During his chairmanship he oversaw a diversification by British and Commonwealth interests, investing in office equipment, financial services, hotels and air transport. By the end of this period shipping formed a very minor part of British and Commonwealth's business. The 100-ship fleet it had inherited from the merger of Clan Line and Union Castle was down to just six ships.

Finally, in the summer of 1987 Caledonia Investments, the financial vehicle of the Cayzer family, withdrew all but a small proportion of its longstanding investment in British and Commonwealth, receiving more than £300 million for its stake.

Hence, Caledonian and the personal fortune of the Cayzer family were untouched by the events of

"Black Monday", the stock market crash of October 1987, which left British and Commonwealth in severe difficulties.

Earlier that year Cayzer had been named the ninth-richest man in Britain by a survey in *Elite* magazine, with a fortune estimated at £500 million.

William Nicholas Cayzer was born at Mauchline, Ayrshire, the son of Sir August Cayzer, 1st Baronet. Himself the third son of Sir Charles Cayzer, August Cayzer had been created a baronet in 1921. Charles Cayzer, who had bought his first merchant ship, *Clan Alpine*, in 1878, had been created a baronet in 1904.

Nicholas Cayzer was educated at Eton and Corpus Christi College, Cambridge, where he read history. He entered Clan Line Steamers on coming down from university in 1931, and by 1938 was a director, subsequently to become chairman.

When the Second World War broke out he wanted to serve, and

for a brief period was in the Army. But it was clear that his shipping knowhow would be much more valuable to the war effort than his eye behind the sights of a rifle could, and he was soon brought back to the firm to help with the organisation of convoys. He succeeded to the baronetcy on his father's death in 1943.

He was chairman of the Liverpool Steam Ship Owners' Association, 1944-45, Liverpool being Clan Line's home port.

In 1948, on the death of Major Harold Cayzer, he became vice-chairman of Clan Line under his uncle, the 1st Lord Rotherwick, and in 1955 he took a leading part in the negotiations which led to the merger of Clan Line with the Union Castle Mail Steamship Co to form British and Commonwealth Shipping. On the death of Lord Rotherwick in 1958, he became chairman of the new company.

Thereafter, in addition to his shrewd stewardship of British and

Commonwealth Shipping, he was president of the Chamber of Shipping and chairman of the General Council of British Shipping, as well as being president of the Institute of Marine Engineers, 1963-64.

He was also a member of the Mersey Dock and Harbour Board and of the National Dock Labour Board. As such he frequently had to deal with the increasingly intractable labour problems which beset the shipping industry. He was created a life peer in 1962.

After selling his family's interests in British and Commonwealth in 1987 and stepping down as chairman, Cayzer continued as chairman of Caledonia Investments until 1994 when he became president of the company. In retirement he continued to be an enthusiastic golfer and was a fine shot.

Nicholas Cayzer married, in 1935, Elizabeth Catherine, daughter of Owain Williams. She died in 1995 and he is survived by their two daughters.



Cayzer on board a Union Castle ship in the 1960s

## AIR COMMODORE G. J. 'TAFFY' POWELL

Air Commodore G. J. "Taffy" Powell, CBE, operations director of the wartime Atlantic air ferry organisation, died on March 8 aged 91. He was born on August 11, 1907.

In THE 1930s, when it seemed that the future of long-range air travel lay in the flying boat rather than in airliners operating from land, Taffy Powell undertook transatlantic flights as Imperial Airways sought to develop its long-distance routes. Later, after war had broken out, he returned to the RAF where he had started his flying career, and played an important role in the development of Ferry Command, which systematised the delivery of the vast numbers of aircraft which had to be brought across the Atlantic from American factories for use in the European war theatre.

Griffith James Powell was born in Cardiff. He had originally intended to be an engineer, and for that purpose went to Bristol University. But Bristol, with its famous aircraft company, sparked an interest in flying and in 1926 he joined the RAF, where the metamorphosis of Griffith to Taffy was very soon accomplished — and the nickname stuck fast. His first posting was to No 58 Squadron, then commanded by Arthur (later "Bomber") Harris. Even then, the fiery Harris was firmly convinced of the efficacy of night bombing, and No 58 got plenty of practice at it.

Powell's next posting was as



Powell, centre, and other Imperial Airways aircrew planning a transatlantic flight by the flying boat *Cambrria* in 1937

an instructor at the Central Flying School, where he played rugby, in the process encountering Douglas Bader who played scrum half for the RAF College, Cranwell. Both men took and gave hard

knocks in a series of highly competitive matches between CFS and Cranwell.

Powell found his next job — instructor to the Auxiliary Air Force — less enjoyable, and when, in 1930, Imperial Air

ways began advertising for ex-bomber pilots to develop its African routes, he jumped at the chance and left the RAF. Soon he was taking Imperial's first four-engined airliner to South Africa.

Next, after taking his Master Pilot's Licence — the first issued for both landplanes and flying boats — he set out on a series of transatlantic proving flights in the Short C Class flying boat *Cambrria*

With the ordering of a large number of American-built Hudson bombers for Britain to increase the effectiveness of convoy protection, it became imperative to devise a system

the flying boats were named rather as if they had been ships). In the course of these in 1937 he set a record for the crossing between Newfoundland and Ireland of 10 hours 33 minutes. This stood for seven years until he himself broke it in a Liberator bomber in 1944.

Powell's navigational skills came to Imperial's aid in January 1939 when *Cambrria's* sister "ship" *Cavalier* had to ditch in the Atlantic while on a flight between New York and Bermuda. As night fell, air searches had to be called off and hope for passengers and crew faded. But the navigational knowhow of Powell, who was then in Bermuda as Imperial's operations manager, calculated a likely position for the ditching and directed the nearest ship, the tanker *Esso Baytown*, to the spot. The master of the tanker found Powell's estimated position was accurate to within a few hundred yards, and the ten survivors of the crash were

recovered.

When war came in 1939 Powell tried to rejoin the RAF but was told that at 32 he was too old for active service. A chance meeting with an old RAF messmate led to his joining the Royal Canadian Air Force, where he became a navigation specialist with Eastern Air Command, providing air cover for Atlantic convoys.

With the ordering of a large number of American-built Hudson bombers for Britain to increase the effectiveness of

convoy protection, it became imperative to devise a system

atic air ferry system to get the aircraft from their factories in California to RAF Coastal Command's bases. Within a few months the Imperial Airways transatlantic team of 1937 had reassembled in Canada to form the Atlantic Ferry Organisation (Aero), and Powell had been disengaged from the RCAF and put in charge of the ferry system's forward base at Gander, Newfoundland. He subsequently became operations controller of Aero.

On November 10, 1940, the first squadron of Hudsons, led by Don Bennett (later to found the Pathfinder Force) left America and all arrived safely in Britain. The first span of the Atlantic air bridge was in place. Powell was subsequently posted back to Bermuda to establish another link, the delivery of Catalina flying boats to Greenock on the Clyde, a flight which often took the slow-flying Catalina

24 hours.

In June 1941 Aero became RAF Ferry Command (in 1943 its name changed again, to 45 Group Transport Command) and undertook all the transport and communications tasks associated with the mass of aircraft pouring into Britain as the war proceeded and the invasion of Europe loomed. The ferry operation also supplied aircraft for the Desert Air Force and anti-tank ammunition for the 8th Army in North Africa. In June 1943 Powell was reinstated in the RAF with the rank of air commodore and appointed CBE. By the end of the war the

ferry operation had delivered more than 9,000 aircraft, losing only 74 in the process.

After the war Powell returned to civilian life and set up British Aviation Services, a ferry organisation which delivered war surplus transport aircraft to the rapidly growing commercial airline sector. When BAS became Silver City Airways, Powell became its managing director. Familiar in the 1950s for its car ferry service in bulb-nosed Bristol Freighters between Lympne and Le Touquet, Silver City Airways started life doing something very different. In the fraught months of the partition of India and Pakistan it was involved in the mass airlifting of Hindus and Muslims between the two countries.

At its peak in 1954 Silver City was carrying 40,000 cars and 100,000 passengers a year. On one single July day that year Silver City aircraft crossed the Channel 22 times.

In 1957 Powell stepped down from his post at Silver City, which had by then been taken over by P&O, but within a few months was back in harness as BOAC director of the troubled subsidiary, British West Indian Airlines. He subsequently moved to Nassau as chairman and managing director of Bahamas Airways before finally retiring to the South of France, where he had lived quietly for the past thirty years.

His wife Marion died in 1995 after 62 years of marriage. He is survived by his two sons.

## SIR IAN McADAM

Sir Ian McAdam, OBE, surgeon, died on March 4 aged 82. He was born on February 15, 1917.

IAN MCADAM inspired a generation of tropical surgeons by his charismatic leadership, outstanding teaching skills and surgical gifts. During his time in Uganda, from 1946 to 1972, he played a leading role in the development of Mulago Hospital and the Makerere University Medical School in Kampala, creating a centre of excellence which not only served the needs of developing Africa but attracted surgeons and surgical trainees from all parts of the globe. His expulsion by Idi Amin was a sign of the destruction that was to come.

Ian William James McAdam was born in South Africa, the second of four sons of a mining engineer, who had gone out originally to serve with the British forces in the Boer War and who settled eventually in Shabani, Southern Rhodesia, where he managed the asbestos mine. All four brothers served in turn as head boy at Plumtree School, Southern Rhodesia.

From an early age Ian McAdam wanted to be a surgeon, so he studied medicine at Edinburgh University. Following a period as supervisor in anatomy at Cambridge University he returned to Edinburgh to work with Sir James Learmonth as the Wilkie Surgical Research Fellow, participating in the excitement surrounding the early successful use of penicillin to treat osteomyelitis and invasive bacterial infection.

He married Hothgarde (née Gibson) in 1939 and despite an invitation to stay on in Edinburgh after the war, opted to return to Africa in 1946 to take up a post in Uganda. As senior surgical specialist to the Ugandan Government he was on occasion the only surgeon at Mulago, the main government hospital in Kampala and the forerunner of the showpiece hospital which came into being at the time of independence.

The wealth of surgical experience he now acquired laid the foundation for the skills as a teacher of the art, science and craft of surgery for which he became world renowned. He was duly appointed to the



McAdam in Africa: an inspiration to a generation of tropical surgeons

chair of surgery at Makerere University, then the only medical school in East Africa.

McAdam was a superb operator

which challenged but never ridiculed. His abiding commitment to the training of doctors gave the school a growing reputation as a source of graduates able to work in the remote communities and isolated hospitals of East Africa.

The first generation of East African surgeons were trained in his department. McAdam also encouraged the establishment of other medical schools in the region. Many of his trainees returned to develop prominent roles in the surgical services of their own countries.

Although McAdam would not have claimed to be a prominent scientist and surgical research worker, he knew quality science when he saw it, made major contributions to the development of clinical surgery and created an environment in which research could flourish. He was involved with the establishment of the Uganda Blood Transfusion Service, the Polio Treatment Centre and the Cancer Institute, was a founder member and later the president of the East African Association of Surgeons, and in 1975 was awarded the John Bruce Med-

al by the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh.

McAdam was deeply committed to the development of a multi-racial society in Uganda and strove to ensure that the new hospital did not perpetuate the folly of an earlier system in which the Kampala hospitals were segregated according to the racial origin of their patients.

He found time for regular outside surgery, representing Uganda at several sports, including tennis, cricket and golf, and winning national titles at golf, tennis and motor rallying. Other hobbies included photography, gardening and a deep love of the African bush and its wildlife.

His first marriage ended in divorce in 1961. Six years later he was married for the second time, to Pamela Hunt (née Medawar), and their home in Kampala was a haven of hospitality.

When President Obote was shot in the head, McAdam operated — but only after soldiers brandishing automatic weapons had been cleared from the immediate confines of the operating theatre. But

he was to fall foul of another President. It was a cruel day for Uganda when in 1972 he was expelled by Idi Amin, along with the professors of medicine and obstetrics. Among the reasons cited were the efforts of the three to help Asian colleagues to find posts overseas. He could hardly have been happy to remain under that regime.

After a year at the National Cancer Institute in Washington, the call of Africa and its big skies proved more alluring than a number of job offers in the northern hemisphere. The McAdams settled near Plettenberg Bay in South Africa, where he undertook all the surgery at the Kruksn Hospital, operating until he was 72.

He retired to Middleton Stoney, Oxfordshire, in 1992 after 65 years in Africa, moving recently to Devon to be closer to his immediate family.

McAdam was knighted in 1966 for services to Uganda. He had been appointed OBE in 1957.

He is survived by his wife Pamela and by the children of his first marriage, two daughters and a son who is a professor of tropical medicine.

## Latest wills

Major-General Sir Charles Dunbie, of Wincanton, Somerset, left estate valued at £1,355,542 net.

Sir Denis Buckley, a Justice of Appeal 1970-81, left estate valued at £333,059 net.

Lady Catto, of Minchinhampton, Gloucestershire, and London SW1, left estate valued at £1,102,603 net.

Lady Hailsham of St Marylebone, of London SW1S, left estate valued at £380,944 net.

Jocelyn Lady Londesborough, of Newport, Isle of Wight, left estate valued at £380,047 net.

Sir William Staniford, of Great Wigborough, Colchester, Essex, left estate valued at £4,178,367 net.

Mr Lancelot Guy Allgood, of Heywood, Northumberland, left estate valued at £12,140,544 net.

He left £500 each to the Roman Catholic Church at Heddon and the Northern Entente Fund (Heddon and Newcastle Diocese).

Mr James Walton Reynard, of Tholthorpe, York, left estate valued at £2,775,011 net.

Mr Sydney Lawrence Duckitt, of

Cookley, Kidderminster, Worcestershire, left estate valued at £7,518,527 net.

Mrs Suzanne Mary Howell Skeat, of London NW8, left estate valued at £3,771,463 net.

Audrey Vaughan Bain, of Newport, South Wales, left estate valued at £2,316,488 net.

He left £10,000 to St Winefride Cathedral, Newport, plus shares in her residuary estate to the Association for International Cancer Research, Imperial Cancer Research Fund, Animal Welfare Foundation, St Anne's Hospice of St Joseph's Private Hospital, Malpas, and St David's Foundation, Newport.

Mr Ian Dawson Grant, of London W1, left estate valued at £2,089,032 net.

He left £10,000 to the Governors of Westminster School and £30 to the Nuffield Foundation.

Mr Dudley Norman Latter, of Redland, Bristol, left estate valued at £2,842,369 net.

Betty Evelyn Rogers, of Gerrards Cross, Buckinghamshire, left estate valued at £2,775,011 net.

She left £10,000 each to the Thames Valley

Hospice and the World Cancer Research Fund. Mrs Jill Adrienne Walford, of Pound Green, Buntingford, Hertfordshire, left estate valued at £1,353,905 net.

Mr Edmund Hine of Alderley Edge, Cheshire, left estate valued at £1,048,442 net.

Mrs Pamela Mary Hope, of Milford on Sea, Hampshire, left estate valued at £1,150,713.

Mrs Marlies James, of

# THE TIMES TODAY

MONDAY APRIL 19 1999

## NEWS

### Poison cloud engulfs Belgrade

An ecological catastrophe was unfolding in the Balkans yesterday after Nato deliberately bombed a combined petrochemicals, fertiliser and refinery complex on the banks of the Danube in the northern outskirts of Belgrade.

A series of detonations that shook the whole city early sent a deeply toxic cloud of smoke and gases hundreds of feet into the night sky. In the opaque dawn the choking cloud could be seen spreading over the entire northern skyline.....Page 1, 9-13

### Counting the cost of war

Gordon Brown has ordered a running audit of the "fantastically uncertain" cost of the war amid fears that it could exhaust the Treasury reserves set aside for emergencies. Teams of officials from four departments are working full time on estimates of the final total and its impact on the public account.....Page 1

### Pinochet fights on

The former Chilean dictator Augusto Pinochet pledged yesterday to fight Jack Straw's decision to allow extradition proceedings against him to go ahead.....Page 2

### Adams warning

Gerry Adams gave a warning that, if London and Dublin insisted on IRA disarmament before admitting Sinn Fein to an executive, the Good Friday peace accord was "dead".....Page 2

### Winning woman

A 28-year-old Kenyan mother had the biggest payday for a single event in women's athletics history when she earned £210,000 for winning the Flora London Marathon.....Pages 1, 3

### Market bomber

Police gave warning that the "vicious and reckless" bomber behind the nail-bomb attack on a London market could strike again. Senior police and ministers said that the bomber may have wanted to kill rather than maim his victims.....Pages 1, 5

### Sunrise view

Hordes of visitors descended on the Royal Academy for their last chance to catch a Monet sunrise. The first 24-hour exhibition in Britain enabled thousands of people, who could not get tickets during normal hours, to see *Monet in the 20th Century*.....Page 6

### The ja's (almost) have it

The German parliament meets for the first time today in the new Reichstag, decked out with a glass dome that shines out of the Berlin gloom like a lighthouse in the fog. Everyone seems pleased with the architect, Sir Norman Foster, though there are still a few grumbles about brightly coloured wooden panels and the narrow widths of the seats.....Page 16



If winter comes: Sledgers above Holme, near Holmfirth, West Yorkshire, enjoying the unseasonal April weather yesterday

### Hume prayers

Christian congregations of all denominations across Britain joined in prayer yesterday for Cardinal Basil Hume, Archbishop of Westminster, who has disclosed that he is dying of cancer. Page 7

### Killer's confession

The family of the man murdered by Tracie Andrews yesterday accused her of trying to "save her own skin" after she finally confessed to the killing in a letter from prison. Andrews, who was jailed for life in 1997 for the murder of Lee Harvey after claiming that an unknown "road rage" killer had stabbed him 35 times, wrote that she had "lost all control".....Page 52

### Sport of royals

The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh are not the most dedicated of football fans but they will be unable to avoid the game when they begin a four-day state visit to South Korea today, the first by a British monarch to the older economy that is struggling to recover its roar.....Page 49

### Indonesia 'cleansing'

Armed pro-Indonesian militiamen were in control of the East Timorese capital of Dili last night after a weekend of terror in which a loyalist leader called for the "cleansing" of all those who are in favour of independence from Indonesia.....Page 6

### BUSINESS

**Taxing issue:** The meeting of European finance minister in Dresden failed to yield any developments on EU plans to put a 20 per cent withholding tax on eurobonds.....Page 52

**Checking out:** City dealers are likely to learn sooner rather than later whether their bets on a hostile takeover bidder for Asda will bear fruit. On Friday the supermarket group agreed to a £1.7 billion merger with Kingfisher.....Page 52

**Useful acquisition:** Lord Lloyd-Webber, the composer has bought back the 30 per cent he did not own of Really Useful Group.....Page 52

**Scottish question:** The Government has offered concessions on the Private Finance Initiative at the Scottish Trades Union Congress, which meets today.....Pages 18, 19

### FEATURES

**Waiting game:** As the Nato action in Serbia intensifies, those who were here can only wait for news and despair. Lucy Hawking interviews a peace monitor and Eve Ann Prentiss speaks to three exiled Kosovars.....Page 17

**Degree of choice:** Choosing a university place was never easy but it has become even more confusing in recent years. Not only are more courses available, but prospective students are bombarded by glitzy promotional material.....Page 45

### FASHION

**Great clothes:** Red Gofrey has launched designs that will become long-term players — beautifully cut, understated and perfect to wear every day.....Pages 18, 19

### ARTS

**German jewel:** The British architect Sir Norman Foster has restored Britain's parliament, the Reichstag, to its original architectural glory in a £200 million reconstruction.....Page 20

**Optimistic dramatist:** Jonathan Harvey's *Hushabye Mountain*, at the Hampstead Theatre, proves there is something defiantly good-natured about his work.....Page 20

**Stratford star:** Ray Fearon set young hearts aflutter as Romeo for the RSC last season. Now he is tackling the rather more grown-up role of Othello in Stratford.....Page 21

**Welcome visitor:** The Italian pianist Maurizio Pollini reveals renewed energy and focus in his Festival Hall programme of Schubert and Schumann.....Page 21

### SPORT

**Football:** Chelsea missed a glorious chance to close the gap at the top of the FA Carling Premiership as Leicester City scored twice in the last ten minutes.....Page 27

**London marathon:** Abdelkader El Mouaziz broke away from a star-studded field to become the first Moroccan to win the race, first staged in 1981.....Page 29

**Snooker:** Dominic Dale established a record points tally in a frame after several misses by his opponent and a century break in the World Championship.....Page 29

**Golf:** Englishman Lee Westwood maintained his remarkable record in play-offs by winning the Macau Open at the second extra hole, but Darren Clarke was penalised for turning up late.....Page 38

### CUP FINAL

Millwall supporters outnumbered those of Wigan Athletic five to one but they went home miserable after a 1-0 defeat in the Auto Windscreens Trophy final. Page 33

### Racing

The Henry Cecil-trained

*Enrique* has been installed as the new Sagittario 2,000 Guineas favourite after winning the Tripleprint Stakes at Newbury.....Page 39

### TOMORROW

## IN THE TIMES

### ARTS

The National Portrait Gallery finds out why there is more to the artist than meets the eye

### LAW

The deal that could spell the end of legal aid



### FORECAST

#### ENGLAND AND WALES

#### SCOTLAND

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#### IRELAND

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## PUSH COMES TO SHOVE

Leicester close in on championship  
Page 34

On two fronts

No compromise

Brixton's bravery

COLUMNS

Rees-Mogg

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OBITUARIES



## MARATHON EFFORT

Elite runners take London in their stride  
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## WIN DOUBLE

The day Spanish golf came of age  
Page 36



18 PAGES

# TIMES SPORT



Wilkins, left, the Chelsea coach, and Vialli, second left, the player-manager, can watch only in despair as a two-goal lead is thrown away after the fateful substitution of Duberry for Ferrer. Photographs: Marc Aspland

## Chelsea's bubble bursts

THEY loaded their players with honours before the game. Ed de Goey got his from one branch of the supporters' club; Gustavo Poyet got his from another. They even gave one to Frank Sinclair, a visiting old boy, just for being there. Sadly for Chelsea, once they had started dispensing largesse yesterday, they could not stop. For 80 minutes, they dominated Leicester City; for 80 minutes, they cruised towards a comfortable victory that would have brought them back to within a point of Manchester United at the top of the FA Carling Premiership, with everything still to play for and the pressure bearing down on the leaders.

Then, as they patted themselves on the back a bit more, Gianluca Vialli, their player-manager, made a dreadfully misjudged substitution that turned the game and, before they knew it, they had given away something far more precious than any of the trinkets that they had partied with before.

In five minutes of madness near the end of a season of toil and perseverance, Chelsea threw away a two-goal lead and, with it, their hopes of winning the title for another year. If ever a draw felt like a crushing defeat, this was it.

Their second draw in five days left them three points behind United, but Alex Ferguson's side have a game in hand. For Chelsea to win the championship now, United would probably have to lose two of their last six games when they have only lost three of their previous 32. It is between United and Arsenal now.

Vialli, perhaps missing the influence of the jailed Graham



By Oliver Holt  
Football Correspondent



Guppy strikes the late equaliser at Stamford Bridge yesterday that may have ended Chelsea's challenge

After a fine pass from Jody Morris and an even finer one from Roberto Di Matteo had carved open the Leicester defence, they nearly went further ahead ten minutes after half-time, but Keller somehow managed to claw a diving header from Dennis Wise off the line when it seemed that was impossible to keep it out.

They did extend their lead midway through the second half. Di Matteo was the provider once more. His pass freed Dan Petrescu on the right and when his chip over Keller bounced off the post, Matt Elliott could only turn it into his own net. Demoralised and dispirited, Leicester should not have been allowed any way back.

Their challenge appears to have founders, ultimately, on their failure to replace Pierluigi Casiraghi, injured early in the season, with a goalscorer of a similar calibre, someone who could have finished Leicester off yesterday when they were at Chelsea's mercy.

They had eased their way into the lead in the thirtieth minute, when Gianfranco Zola lobbed the ball over Kel-

ler to go with the one that Zola spurned in the goalless draw away to Middlesbrough a week earlier, and then Vialli's decision to replace Albert Ferrer with Michael Duberry in the 66th minute changed the course of this game.

Ferrer had had a faultless afternoon and even though Chelsea were nervous about the serial threat that Leicester had added to their attack by bringing on Ian Marshall and pushing Elliott up front, removing Ferrer seemed to be a needlessly risky strategy.

Suddenly, Emile Heskey, who had hardly been given a kick by Ferrer, was embarrassing Duberry with his pace and strength. Duberry, flung into the midst of what had suddenly become a desperate rear-guard action, could not deal

with that or with the long-ball bombardment that followed.

"When they went route one-

ist, we did not cope with that very well at all," Wilkins said.

"We should have been three or

four up by then, but we started to defend too deep and caused ourselves all sorts of problems. I don't know why the defence did that. You will have to ask them."

Leicester dragged them-

selves back into the match

eight minutes from the end

when Andrew Impye's hopeful

ball to the back post was

hooked back across the face of

the goal by Elliott, bounced off

Duberry's shin and rolled into

the net. Chelsea were reeling.

Marcel Desailly made a desper-

ate saving tackle on Cottee,

de Goey pushed out Mar-

shall's close-range header and

Leboeuf blocked a shot from

Cottee with his stomach.

They could not cling on.

Two minutes were left when

Guppy, who had also been

shackled by the attentions of

Referee M Reed,

Ferrer, wriggled past Petres-

cu, drifted in from the left and

curled his right-foot shot past

the forlorn dive of De Geye.

Martin O'Neill leapt from

the dugout in elation, punching

the air. "We were sup-

posed to be here to make up

the numbers," the Leicester

manager said. "We were sup-

posed to be an inferior side,

but we have just destroyed

everybody's idea of what this

game would be."

Leicester dragged them-

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مكانت الأهل

## London Marathon: Moroccan outsider outwits world's finest to claim impressive victory



El Mouaziz, signed up only as a reserve, was allowed the time for an elaborate celebration by a strong field of runners that paid the price for worrying too much about each other

## El Mouaziz proves too clever

BY DAVID POWELL, ATHLETICS CORRESPONDENT

THE Flora London Marathon spent a record \$1.5 million (about £950,000) investing in the finest field assembled for a men's competition, but the collective racing brain of the world's most accomplished distance runners was outwitted yesterday by an athlete signed up as a reserve, Abdellkader El Mouaziz, from Morocco, completed the first African double in the 19-year history of the event after Joyce Chepkemba, from Kenya, had won the women's race.

El Mouaziz was a 16-1 outsider in a field that included Ronald da Costa, the world record-holder from Brazil, Josiah Thugwane, the Olympic champion from South Africa, and Abel Anton, the world champion from Spain. Though he had finished second last year, he was not invited this time until the drop-outs began. The field was that strong, London — or so it thought — could be run without him.

When El Mouaziz followed similar tactics to those that he employed last April, building up a lead from the main group, few imagined he would still be in front come the finish line. In the 1998 race, Anton came past him 300 metres from the finish and the Moroc-

can had to settle for finishing as runner-up. By halfway the pacemakers, Thugwane and El Mouaziz were some 90 seconds ahead of the main group.

By 15 miles, with the last of the pacemakers now departed, El Mouaziz was out on his own. Richard Nerurkar, Britain's fastest marathon runner of recent times, commenting for BBC Television, was among those fooled. "I think that El Mouaziz is committing suicide," Nerurkar said at 16 miles, with the Moroccan more than two minutes clear.

El Mouaziz passed 20 miles within a minute of world-record schedule and, by the 21st mile, with the leader still way out ahead, Nerurkar had changed his tune. "I do not think they are going to catch him," Nerurkar said. This time he was right.

Soon the luminaries following began to realise it, too. At 23 miles, El Mouaziz still led by more than two minutes.

Antonio Pinto, twice the Lon-



Brown: unable to hold off Anton's challenge

don Marathon champion, was the only one to retrieve an apparently lost cause. He set off in pursuit but still finished more than a minute behind.

Had El Mouaziz concentrated on pushing it to the line he would have taken the \$25,000 for a course record, but, just as

Pinto paid the price last year for a similar celebration, the winner yesterday fell two seconds short of Pinto's course best. El Mouaziz's time was identical to Anton's winning run last year, 2hr 7min 57sec.

Pinto was second in 2hr 9min and Anton third in 2hr 9min 41sec. Anton outsped Jon Brown, Great Britain's first finisher, who came fourth in a career-best 2hr 9min 44sec. Pinto and Anton admitt-

ed they had been too busy watching the top names in the field, assuming that they would work their way back to worry about those out ahead. "The runners are to blame," Pinto said. "All the top athletes were there looking at each other. Some runners took a risk and most of us did not," Anton added. "He took the risk and congratulations to him. We did not realise the winner was going to be so strong."

Neither attempted to blame either the pacemakers or the lack of information from race officials telling them how far El Mouaziz was ahead. Anton suggested that he did not realise El Mouaziz was among the athletes who had gone off with the pacemakers.

"I looked around and saw all the other top athletes and thought nobody in front was one of the favourites, so we took it easy," he said.

El Mouaziz, explaining his decision to break away earlier than last year, said: "I am not as strong in the finish as Anton or Pinto. They are good track runners, over 5,000 and 10,000 metres, and I am not. If I am with them at the finish I am going to lose."

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Da Costa proved small value for his \$250,000 appearance fee. He finished seventeenth, behind Tekeye Gebreslassie, the brother of Haile, the multi-world record-holder, who was thirteenth.

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THE LEADING FINISHERS IN THE LONDON MARATHON	
WOMEN	MEN
1. Joyce Chepkemba (Ken) 2:22:22	1. Abdellkader El Mouaziz (Mor) 2hr 07 min 57sec
2. Adriana Fernandes (Mar) 2:24:06	2. Antonio Pinto (Por) 2:09:00
3. Mercedes Machado (Por) 2:25:09	3. Abel Anton (Sp) 2:09:41
4. Nicola Scales (Eng) 2:25:44	4. Jon Brown (GB) 2:09:44
5. Josephat Kiprono (Ken) 2:25:49	5. Josephat Kiprono (Ken) 2:25:49
6. Giacomo Loane (It) 2:31:03	6. Giacomo Loane (It) 2:31:03
7. Albert Jusidado (Sp) 2:31:08	7. Albert Jusidado (Sp) 2:31:08
8. Domingos Castro (Por) 2:32:24	8. Domingos Castro (Por) 2:32:24
9. Simon Njikuanzane (SA) 2:32:56	9. Simon Njikuanzane (SA) 2:32:56
10. Isaoi Yamamoto (Japan) 2:33:13	10. Isaoi Yamamoto (Japan) 2:33:13

### TOP BRITISH RUNNER

1. Nicola Scales 2:44:28



Scales: well behind leading women

Two weeks ago, he was training in the sun of Florida during the British Olympic Association's training camp for young hopefuls. "I learnt a lot

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## FA Carling Premiership: Veteran striker sustains pursuit of treble



Sheringham clips the ball back across goal for Solskjær to give Manchester United the lead. Solskjær returned the compliment for the second goal. Photograph: Dan Chung

OVER the past year, Teddy Sheringham's career has been as vulnerable to break-ins as an unattended flat on a dark housing estate. First of all, the robbers took his England shirt. The Manchester United jersey was soon to follow. Most ageing sportsmen have to put up with ransacked lives and every other sign of fame seemed set to vanish, but Sheringham's case was different.

The valubles are being returned. Managers function at a low level of compassion and it is the needs of United that have seen Alex Ferguson act in the forward's interests. Introduced as a substitute, he had the height to loom over the Juventus defence and assist at the equaliser in the first leg of the European Cup semi-final. Now, his other attributes are also restored to working order.

On Saturday, Sheffield Wednesday were, in every sense, a flat team. The rigid lines of their defence and midfield left Sheringham, 33, to apply his knowledge of all the hiding places on the pitch. Although he scored a goal of his own and created the others, the veteran was as notable for his playmaking from withdrawn positions, as he pampered other attackers with back-heels, flicks and raking passes.

At the risk of mockery, one might say he was reminiscent

## Sheringham adds to Ferguson's options



by Kevin McCarron

of Zinedine Zidane, even if it will be far harder to maintain the resemblance when Zidane himself and the rest of Juventus side are on the field. All the same, Sheringham may well have earned a place in the line-up for Turin. At the very least, he has deepened the resources available to the inscrutable Ferguson, ensuring that Juventus will be in real doubt over United's selection.

If Sheringham has an important role to play, it may be at the continuing expense of Dwight Yorke, despite the latter's strong claim to the Footballer of the Year award. In the longer term, there could be difficulty in paying for that sort of wealth of possibilities. With the BskyB bid for United blocked by the Government, Martin Edwards, the United chairman, has suggested that extended squads will be vital. It might have to be the emerging youngsters, such as Wes Brown, who are asked to swell the numbers at Old Trafford.

Failure is never far away, but United do look equipped to cope with the existing

demands. Victory is the elixir and, as Ferguson remarked, the policy of squad rotation works best when fresh faces are introduced to a successful team. With another stride taken towards the recovery of the Premiership title, there is a marked spring in United's step.

While progress is being made in three competitions, connoisseurs of strife have little opportunity to study tensions between board and manager. Sheffield Wednesday had no intention of causing trouble. The function of Danny Wilson's side was purely ceremonial.

Instead of paying attention to the opposition, they only paid tribute to them. After four seige hours of football against Arsenal last week, a United team that retained eight of the outfield players who had begun the FA Cup semi-final replay was surprisingly brisk and clever in its attacks. The ducility of Wednesday might have been

the reaction of disappointed men who had been hoping for jaded adversaries.

After 36 minutes, Roy Keane reached a long cross from Jesper Blomqvist and pulled the ball back to Sheringham, who jabbed it on towards Ole Gunnar Solskjær. The Norwegian, darting in front of Emerson Thome, finished firmly. A minute from the interval, United moved further ahead when a cross from Solskjær was headed home by Sheringham. It was the 25th goal of his senior career, but his first since December 2.

He was at the heart, too, of United's most artful move, in the 62nd minute. Keane cut an acute pass into the path of Paul Scholes, who scored with a deflected shot after Sheringham's glancing return ball had completed a one-two with the midfield player. The team's obvious contentment makes them more dangerous than ever and they will be enhanced by the return of Schmeichel against Juventus.

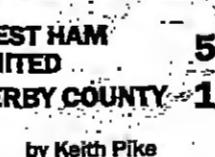
The injured Ryan Giggs is still doubtful.

"We will need to have a wonderful performance in Turin and hit the heights," Ferguson said, "but the players are doing that quite regularly at the moment. We need to score over there, but we will do that with more control and patience."

Wednesday, with six defeats in seven matches, are giving transfusions of confidence to virtually everyone they encounter. They are not even capable of basic abrasiveness and it was always apparent that Ferguson would be spared any concern over fresh injuries. The movement of United in midfield and attack bewildered Wednesday, ensuring that they were frequently in no position even to attempt a tackle.

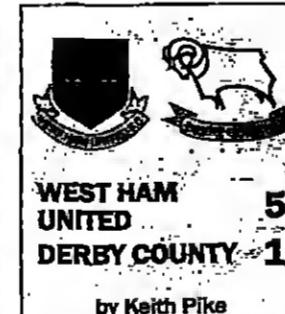
On this evidence, they are a demoralised team. They leave no mark of any sort and their saintly conduct could earn them a place in the Uefa Cup through the bizarre Fair Play League. To make absolutely certain of continued involvement in the Premiership, they had better show a little devil.

**MANCHESTER UNITED (4-4-2):** R van der Gouw — G Neville, W Brown, J Stam (sub D. Venables), J Keane (sub J Greening, 83); N Butt, J Blomqvist (sub O Irwin, 75) — E Sheringham, O G Solskjær.  
**SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY (4-4-2):** P Spink — P Atherton, E Thomas, O Walker, A Hinchcliffe — N Alexander (sub: P Scott, 59), W Jones, D Sonnen, P Rudd — C Gardner, D Smith (sub: R Crosswell, 71).  
Referee: N Barry



by Keith Pike

## Di Canio's baggage carried by Derby



by Keith Pike

IT WOULD be understating the case to say that Harry Redknapp has not always been well rewarded for his investment in foreign forwards. One, Florin Raduiciu, famously went shopping in Harvey Nichols when he should have been playing another. Marco Boogers, cracked up altogether and went to live in a caravan, Off the peg, of the rails... add Futre, Porfirio and Boere to the list and the West Ham United manager might have been excused had he confined his search for exotica to the Isle of Dogs.

Redknapp, though, is nothing if not persistent and when Paolo Di Canio became available in January, there were no second thoughts, even if the Italian comes with more baggage than Imelda Marcos returning from half-price day at the local soap factory. "Di Canio is an outstanding talent and anybody who thought he wasn't a fool," Redknapp said on Saturday. Nobody owned up.

Certainly, Derby County would testify to his ability. They might have been 3-0 up before West Ham had settled and Jim Smith's team had the last word, too, through their own Paulo. But, in between, Wanchope and his colleagues were ripped apart. The man they call "The Volcano" had been stumbling at the start. Once Di Canio had erupted, Derby were buried under a cascade of goals and adventure.

It was Di Canio who opened the scoring with the aid of a sizeable deflection off Prior's forehead and Di Canio, cutting in from the right again, who set up Berkovic to double the lead in the 28th minute. He forced Houll to tip another effort on to a post and provided the jewel in a glittering afternoon when, with a defender breathing down his neck, an up-and-under was brought under instant control on his thigh, the ball then being swept impudently inside and zero.

other attack instigated. Di Canio faded towards the end, but the impression that he made was indelible.

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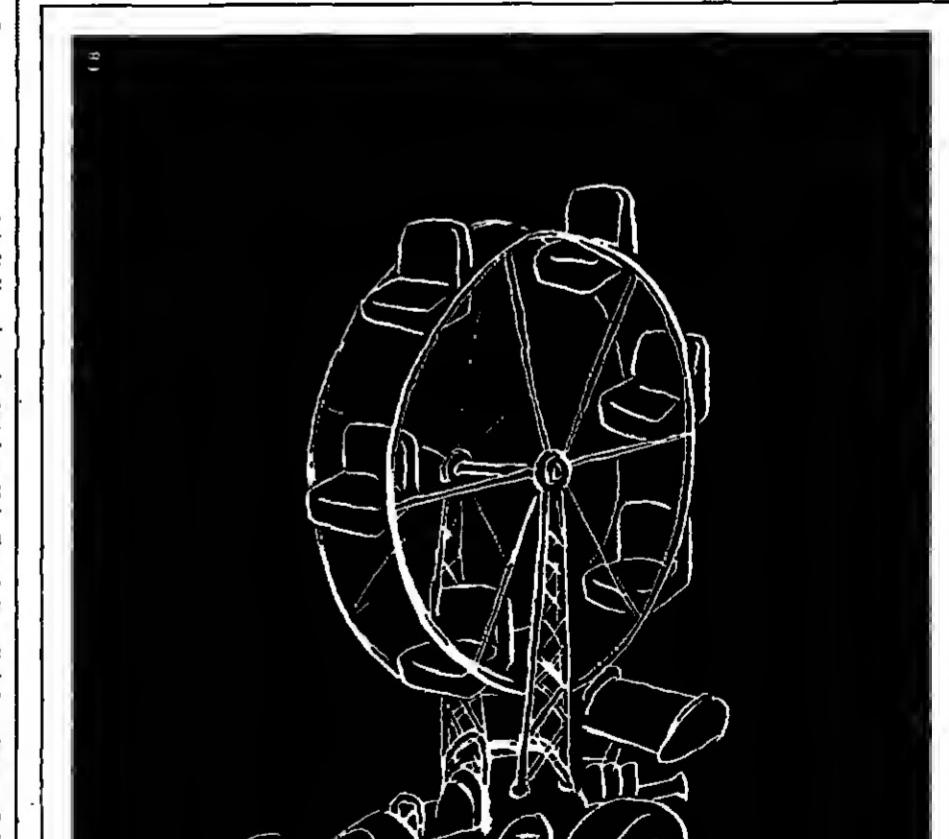
playing peaks and temperamental troughs, most notoriously at Hillsborough.

Yet when he keeps his excesses in check there are few finer sights and,

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Three up through Wright's poaching instincts early in the second half, Houll spilling Lampard's bouncing 30-yard effort, West Ham turned a beating into a rout with two more goals around the hour mark, a far-post header from Rudnick and a more delicate one at the near post from Sinclair. Derby deserved Wanchope's late reply — the fact that Hislop was named man of the match says everything about this free-flowing, fluctuating affair — but it was the Londoners who maintained their challenge for fifth place in the FA Carling Premiership and a route to mainstream Europe via the InterToto Cup.

"We've not been out of the top eight all season and when the punters can come here and watch that kind of football, they will have gone home delighted with the players I've signed for them," Redknapp said. And then he was off to get Jim Smith a glass of red wine. Di Canio's magic moments are indeed worth sharing and savouring.



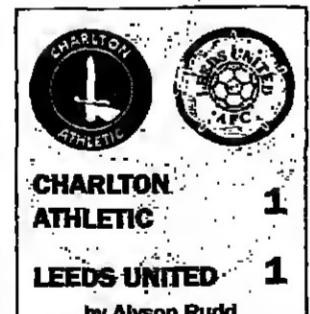
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## Charlton count cost of Mortimer's slip



by Alyson Rudd

EVENTUALLY, there will be a mathematical formula that explains why one point is sometimes worth less or more than one point. In the meantime, it is left to the football supporter's intuition to grasp the fluctuations.

There is a trend at football grounds for fans to call and be called on their mobile phones. A good many people have never felt comfortable with their radio, it seems, and so fans inside the ground relate the score and pertinent circumstances. At The Valley, you did not need to be able to hear what the other party was saying. On being told the result, they obviously muttered: "Well, that's good, isn't it, against Leeds?" And the Charlton Athletic fan felt obliged to explain that yes, before kick-off it would have been good, but after seeing what unfolded, it was not. There were three glaring reasons why this was far from being the valuable point it seemed: Charlton were the better, more imaginative side; they were unlucky in the extreme; and Leeds United, for all their manager's protestations of tiredness, simply went through the motions, with the odd dash of arrogance, as if they had nothing to play for.

Perhaps younger players exhibit weariness through petulance. They were frustrating to watch, for the understanding and technique was there, along with bags of confidence and the odd flamboyant backheel, but so much of it lacked desire.

David O'Leary, the Leeds manager, defended the youngsters who have brought Leeds so close to European Cup qualification using Harry Kewell as an example. "He's played 50 games this season. People say he's lost his sparkle. I don't think he's entitled to have that bit of sparkle, to be quite honest," O'Leary said.

Ian Harte was, perhaps, the leading

exception and it was the 21-year-old full back who engineered an unlikely equaliser with a free kick to the far post that Woodgate binned in.

Even though Charlton's resources are more stretched than those at Leeds, they found the energy to search for a winner, Stuart having given them the lead after one

of many lovely attacking moves that saw the ball sweep across the pitch with confidence. They deserved the sort of three-point package that guarantees FA Carling Premiership safety and appeared to have been granted it when Woodgate's challenge brought down Pringle inside the penalty area.

Mortimer, the assigned penalty taker, said afterwards: "I never think I'm going to miss." And, in this instance, he had every right to feel confident, because he used to practise penalties against Nigel Martyn when they were at Crystal Palace together. Yet he slipped as he kicked the ball and although Martyn was foiled and dived the wrong way, the ball struck the upright.

For a last laugh, the fates decreed that Rufus should be shown the red card for stamping. Rufus was sent off on his Premiership debut in August, when Alan Curbishley's appeal fell on deaf ears. Surely this time the ban will be rescinded, for Rufus was patiently attempting to evade Matthew Jones's reckless sliding tackle. If the defender does miss Charlton's last three games of the season, then the point gained against Leeds will be worth less than zero.

CHARLTON ATHLETIC (4-4-2): A Peterson — O Mills, R Figueiredo, C Ince, P Johnson — S Sturridge, K Jones, M Konstadinidis (sub M Bowen, 80min) — M Pringle (sub M Bright, 81), A Hart.

LEEDS UNITED (4-3-1-2): N Martyn — J Woodgate, L Racine, O Wehner, I Harris — D Barry, I Bowyer, O Hopkins (sub A Hasselbaink, 18) — H Kewell — A Smith, J F Hasselbaink (sub M Jones, 36).

Referee: A Wilcock

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Three up through Wright's poaching instincts early in the second half, Houll spilling Lampard's bouncing 30-yard effort, West Ham turned a beating into a rout with two more goals around the hour mark, a far-post header from Rudnick and a more delicate one at the near post from Sinclair. Derby deserved Wanchope's late reply — the fact that Hislop was named man of the match says everything about this free-flowing, fluctuating affair — but it was the Londoners who maintained their challenge for fifth place in the FA Carling Premiership and a route to mainstream Europe via the InterToto Cup.

"We've not been out of the top eight all season and when the punters can come here and watch that kind of football, they will have gone home delighted with the players I've signed for them," Redknapp said. And then he was off to get Jim Smith a glass of red wine. Di Canio's magic moments are indeed worth sharing and savouring.

**WEST HAM UNITED (4-4-2):** S Houghton — S Potts (sub: J Wright, 18min), I Pearce, N Ruddock — S Lomas (sub: J Cole, 71), MV Fad, F Lampard, S Minto — E Sinclair, J Keane (sub: J Greening, 83), N Butt, J Blomqvist (sub: O Irwin, 75) — E Sheringham, O G Solskjær.

**DERBY COUNTY (4-4-2):** P Spink — P Atherton, E Thomas, O Walker, A Hinchcliffe — N Alessanderson (sub: P Scott, 59), W Jones, D Sonnen, P Rudd — C Gardner, D Smith (sub: R Crosswell, 71).

Referee: N Barry

CARLING

## FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP

**CHARLTON** (1) 1 LEEDS (1) 1  
Steph 20 Wed 24  
20/43 Sent off: R Rukus (Charlton Athletic) 65

**CHARLTON ATHLETIC** A Peterson, O Mills, R Rukus, C Tiller, C Power, G Stansbie, P Vassell, P Walker, P Williams (sub: M Dore), P Williams, M Murphy, M Naylor, A Hart.

**LEEDS UTD** N McLeary, J McPhee, I Salini, G Wetherall, J Hart, O Harkiss (sub: A Hartson) 14, L Brown, O Naylor, H Kewell, J F Kassai (sub: M Jones) 32, S Smith.

**Notts County** D Bowes, B Boyce, Woodman, Smith, Kewell.

**Referee:** A Wilkes.

**COVENTRY** (0) 1 MIDDLESBROUGH (0) 2  
McNulty 72 Kinder 64  
Gordon 62  
Cov City: M Hartson, G Bean (sub: P Curnow 81min); P Stoyanov, P McLean, P Bowing, T E Soltani, G McLean, M Whelan, J Hobbs, G Buckley.

**Referee:** Brian.

**MIDDLESBROUGH** M Schwager, S Vidic, B Pollster (sub: V Mavalek), S Vidojevic, S Cooper, S Wilson, N McDonald, A Townsend, K O'Neill, S Baker, H Ricard (sub: A Armstrong 82).

**Notts County** D Bowes, B Boyce, Woodman, Smith, Kewell.

**Referee:** P Jones.

**LIVERPOOL** (0) 0 ASTON VILLA (1) 1  
Taylor 33  
Leverkusen: O James, R Song (sub: S Dundas 86min), J Caniggia, P Ballo, S Bremby (sub: S Lundström 46), W Sharpe, A Hughes, V Barton, T Keown (sub: N Scholz 75min), G Campbell, J Cole, J Johnson (sub: C Daily 78), J Wilson, K Galceran (sub: I Davis 93), W John, G Souness, P Redknapp, B Barnes (sub: R Crosswell 71).

**Referee:** N Barry.

**NEWCASTLE** (0) 1 EVERTON (3) 2  
Scholes 82 (pen) Campbell 1, 44  
Gerrard 68  
**Newcastle United:** S Goss, P Gerrard, R Lat, G Speed, A Shearer, A Hughes, V Barton, T Keown (sub: N Scholz 75min), G Campbell, J Cole, J Johnson (sub: C Daily 78), J Wilson, K Galceran (sub: I Davis 93), W John, G Souness, P Redknapp, B Barnes (sub: R Crosswell 71).

**Referee:** G Barber.

**WEST HAM** (0) 5 DERBY (0) 1  
Gill 29, 49, 60, 62, 64  
Wright 79  
Wright 55, Redknapp 44  
Shearer 68  
**West Ham:** S Hodge, P O'Farrell, R Lat, G Speed, A Shearer, A Hughes, V Barton, T Keown (sub: N Scholz 75min), G Campbell, J Cole, J Johnson (sub: C Daily 78), J Wilson, K Galceran (sub: I Davis 93), W John, G Souness, P Redknapp, B Barnes (sub: R Crosswell 71).

**Referee:** G Barber.

**YESTERDAY**

**CHELSEA** (1) 2 LIVERPOOL (0) 2  
Zola 20, Pearcey 69  
Doherty 62 (og), Cuppy 68  
**Chester:** D McGeary, A Peter (sub: M Delaney 74min), F Lelouet, M Doherty, O Pescara, O Wise, J Mori (sub: G Poyet 57), R H Mather, S Goldstein (sub: G Le Saux 40), T A Fox, G Zola.

**Referee:** Peter.

**NOTTH FOREST** (0) 0 TOTTENHAM (0) 1  
Jevons 62  
**Notth Forest:** M Ormsby, M Atkinson, C Edwards (sub: S Thomas 72min), P Gaugh, S Cheshire, T Mervin (sub: A Ward 20), A Johnson, A Rogers, P Van Hoofdink, N Stirkay (sub: N Marwood 40), P Redknapp.

**Referee:** G Barber.

Campbell  
raises  
Everton  
tempo

NEWCASTLE  
UNITED  
EVERTON

THE TIMES MONDAY APRIL 19 1999

# Rogers ensures that Wigan get Wembley glory

WHEN Millwall last graced Wembley, when admission cost 7s 6d and the 90,000-strong crowd paid £26,000 to watch the 1945 League South final, Princess Elizabeth was an interested spectator. Whether she acclaimed Chelsea's 2-0 victory or commiserated with the Millwall hordes is not recorded.

What Queen Elizabeth, as she is now, might have made of the Auto Windscreens Shield final between Millwall and Wigan Athletic at Wembley yesterday will not be chronicled, either. An invitation was sent to Buckingham Palace by a cheeky chappie from the New Den, but Her Majesty politely declined. It was a wise decision.

Not until the closing stages did the afternoon spring to life, when the 47,000 Millwall supporters at last found a collective voice to outshout the 8,000 or so who had made the journey from Lancashire. But barely had they discovered their vocal chords than they were silenced by the winning goal in the third minute of injury time.

Liddell's handball went



**MILLWALL**  
0  
**WIGAN  
ATHLETIC**  
1

By Russell Kempson  
at Wembley

unnoticed in the build-up and, after Nethercot had headed weakly to the edge of the Millwall area, Rogers chested the ball down and dispatched a low shot past Roberts. The Wigan few erupted in delight and the multitude of stewards ringing the pitch rose as one in red alert in front of the Millwall masses. Their concern was unwarranted.

It had been a strange occasion, preceded by dire warnings that Wembley would be laid waste by the visit of Millwall's notorious followers.

The Twin Towers would become the Single Tower, it was predicted, as the demolition of the Venue of Legends — due to

start in August 2000 — began.

The minute's silence to mark the tenth anniversary of Hillsborough may have been interrupted and cut short — some Wigan observers were disrespectful, too — but the atmosphere remained bubbly and upbeat. The Elephant and Castle had rocked to the strains of "No one likes us, we don't care" in the morning and shaved-headed, tattooed men, slugging from cans of cider, mingled playfully with children in lion's costumes.

Among the Wigan fans were members of the town's rugby league club, the Warriors, who have made Wembley a second home after ten appearances in the Challenge Cup final in the past 12 years. In lieu of their absence from it this time around, they joined their sporting cousins, with whom they will share a new £32 million stadium next season.

Dave Whelan, the wealthy owner of both Wigan clubs, was also making a nostalgic first trip to Wembley wearing his football hat, since he played for Blackburn Rovers against Wolverhampton Wanderers in the 1960 FA Cup Final. His afternoon had then ended prematurely, when he was carried off with a broken leg.

A dire first half may have erased all his pre-match optimism and perhaps made him

hunger for the oval ball, but the game improved markedly after the interval. Penalty appeals came and went, in equal measure for each Nationwide League second division side,

and Millwall almost went ahead when Harris prodded

the ball past Carroll, only for Greenall to clear off the line.

Extra time and the golden goal loomed large until Rogers swung his left boot. He had known glory before, as a member of the Sutton United side that defeated Coventry

City in the 1989 FA Cup, and welcomed its return.

"I had a swipe at the ball and that was it," Rogers said. "I'd had a shot ten minutes earlier and it nearly broke the scoreboard. This is much better than with Sutton. Of all the

Rogers raises his fist in celebration after scoring the decisive goal against Millwall. Photograph: Shaun Botterill/Allsport

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## ALLIED DUNBAR PREMIERSHIP

# Running repairs leave Leicester on track for title

Leicester..... 25  
Saracens..... 18

By DAVID HANDS  
RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

LONDON'S marathon may have been completed yesterday, but Leicester, having hit the wall at Bath, are still dragging their tired bodies to within touching distance of the Allied Dunbar Premiership title. The run-in will probably extend into May, but victory over Saracens at Welford Road on Saturday has left them needing three points from their three remaining games, all against the pride of the North.

There will be no frills to the climax, either. Leicester admit that they have not played well in the second half of the season, but they have kept winning, always the hallmark of champions. They have done so not only on the back of, well, Neil Back and his international forward colleagues, but on the ability of such lesser lights as Jon Stuart and Derek Jolley to come into the team and fit into the abrasive, committed pattern that rewarded a crowd of more than 14,000 on Saturday.

That Saracens matched them for commitment in

"We didn't leak soft points, we made Leicester work hard for their win," Evans said — and so they did. Indeed, Saracens, when they moved the ball wide, looked the more dangerous, but they could not find a way through the blanket of the Leicester defence.

When so many tackles are made, even the best fall back upon their goalkeepers and neither Tim Stimpson nor Gavin Johnson let their sides down. The two full backs matched each other with six penalty goals, but Stimpson had the additional satisfaction of creating the opportunity from which came the only try, Leicester's hundredth in all competitions this season.

His brave catch, amid a tangle of bodies, inadvertently removed Rob Thrift from the action and gave Pat Howard the chance to send Stuart running into space. The Loughborough student found Leon Lloyd with his pass; by that time, the Saracens defence had lost its shape and Martin Corry had the strength to drive over for the score that, effectively, made the difference.

Considering how much time Leicester spent in the Saracens half after the interval, their 6-3 deficit in that period was a cause for concern. Austin Healey's return to action after suspension was, though, significant: he was full of bounce, finding space where others could not, and he may have Joel Stransky before the month is out. The South African's knee is still troubling him, but, if their first-choice half backs are in place, Leicester could yet come from the season in style.

**SCORERS:** Leicester: Try: Corry (22min); Conversion: Stimpson. Penalty goals: Stimpson 8 (8, 10, 18, 30, 38, 68); Saracens: Two penalty goals: Johnson 6 (4, 13, 20, 55, 79).

**SCORING SEQUENCE:** (Leicester first): 0-3, 6-3, 6-3, 6-6, 9-3, 16-9, 16-12, 19-12, 22-12 (half-time), 23-15, 25-15.

**LEICESTER:** T: Stimpson, L Lloyd, C John, J Studd, D Lougheed, P Howard, J Hartnett (rep: A Hooper, 40min); G Rowntree, A Phipps, S Smith, D Pashley, P Pashley, P R Gru, G Chuter, B Freydy (rep: P Wallis), K Cheesey, C Yendell (rep: K Roche), R Hulme, F Penza (rep: B Cook, 56-59, 61, 63, N Back, M Cook). Referee: C White (Gloucestershire).

sue him to stay. We expect a decision fairly soon from him or his representative."

The two clubs meet next Sunday with European qualification an issue between them and also a determining factor for players out of contract and seeking a move. Luger, 24, will seek to play in the highest available domestic competition next season, after the completion of the World Cup in November, where he is certain to appear in the England squad.

Wasps have confirmed that John Mitchell, England's assistant coach, has joined their staff after leaving Sale.

## Saracens in contest for Luger's talents

HARLEQUINS remain hopeful that Dan Luger will sign a new contract, despite reports linking him with a move next season to Saracens (David Hands writes). Luger, an England wing in seven of eight internationals this season, has made himself a prime target with a series of good displays, which have brought him four tries for his country.

"We have made it clear to Dan that we want him to stay," John Gallagher, the director of rugby at Harlequins, where Luger has been since 1996, said yesterday. "We have offered him a new contract and hopefully we can per-

fect him to stay. We expect a decision fairly soon from him or his representative."

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## European target remains a distant one for Harlequins

Harlequins..... 29  
Bedford..... 16

By MARK BALDWIN

JOHN GALLAGHER, the Harlequins director of rugby, has set his club the task of winning five of their last six league games to ensure European Cup competition at The Stoop Memorial Ground next season. However, the former All Black has also given his players a stark message: if they keep performing like they did against Bedford, then they will have as much chance of reaching Europe as a cross Channel swimmer setting out from Dover and turning sharp right.

Talking of swimming, Gallagher plans a session in a local pool as part of his team's preparation for the visit to West Hartlepool on Wednesday. "I might just drown a few while we are there," he said.

"This was our worst performance of the season. In the first half, we were tactically inept. It was very difficult for me to watch and it must have been for our supporters too. No one is smiling in our dress-

ing-room and we all have a lot of hard work to do if we want to get into Europe. I think we can afford only one defeat from here on in."

"I said to Rudi Straculi [the Bedford coach] that we didn't deserve to win — although that was no consolation, of course, to him."

Straculi blamed poor decision-making in the final ten minutes for the latest in a long line of Bedford near-misses. With five minutes remaining, and with Harlequins struggling to hold a 17-16 lead, Bedford chose to instruct Tony Yapp, the fly half, to go for

a drop goal. It worked, but the ball went wide and the ball was recovered by Nick Best, who converted a try from the right. Yapp had landed the conversion of Rory Underwood's 45th-minute try from a similar position, but a equally shower had blown in from behind the Harlequins posts.

In injury time, two mistakes from the otherwise impressive Dan Harris gifted late tries to Darren O'Leary and Jamie Williams for Harlequins. Indeed, Harlequins fashioned just one coherent movement in the whole game. The introduction of Keith Wood and Zinzan Brooke brought some order and a series of destructive scrums led to a try for Dan Luger, the subject of rumours of a move to Saracens.

**SCORERS:** Harlequins: Tries: Luger (rep: C O'Leary, 40min); Conversion: Luger (rep: C O'Leary); Penalties: Schutte. Penalty goals: Schutte 4 (2, 10, 18, 30, 38, 68); Try: Underwood (45). Conversions: Yapp. Penalty goals: Best 4 (4, 12, 14, 20, 28, 35).

**SCORING SEQUENCE:** (Harlequins first): 0-3, 3-3, 6-3, 9-3, 9-6 (half-time), 9-13, 14-13, 17-13, 20-16, 26-16.

**BEDFORD:** Tries: N Best, C Moir, A Norrington (rep: C O'Leary, 11min); Conversions: N Best 2 (14, 31); London Scottish: Tries: McAsland (64). Conversions: McAsland (64).

**SCORING SEQUENCE:** (Northampton first): 0-3, 3-3, 10-3, 13-3 (half-time), 20-8, 26-8, 32-8, 32-13.

**NORTHAMPTON:** Tries: N Best, C Moir, A Norrington (rep: C O'Leary, 11min); Conversions: N Best 2 (14, 31); London Scottish: Tries: McAsland (64). Conversions: McAsland (64).

**SCORING SEQUENCE:** (London Irish first): 0-3, 3-3, 10-3, 13-3, 17-13, 20-8, 26-8, 32-8, 32-13.

**LONDON SCOTTISH:** Tries: S Brins (rep: McAsland, 40); K Milner, J Bonner, S Eriksson, C Sherman (rep: J Phillips, 40); Conversions: S Brins (rep: McAsland, 40); G Mansfield-Bishop, E Jones, M Watson (rep: G Mansfield-Bishop, 65); S Finn, S Holmes, R Hunter (rep: G Davies, 65). Referee: C Rees (Somerset).



Tuigamala attempts to get the ball away as he is brought to ground in the defeat by Wasps yesterday

Wasps..... 34  
Newcastle Falcons..... 33

By DAVID HANDS

THIS season still has the capacity to surprise and after the dust had settled at Loftus Road yesterday on a riveting match, Wasps had moved into the top five of the Allied Dunbar Premiership. In contrast, Newcastle were looking at the ruin of their European hopes and the loss of Rob Andrew.

Andrew left the field clutching a dislocated shoulder after trying in vain to stop the forward rumble that gave Wasps their third try and a match-winning conversion for Alex King. The former England fly half will have an X-ray on his shoulder today and is virtually certain to miss the Tetley's Bitter Cup final against Wasps on May 15.

The taste in Newcastle mouths was even more bitter for the belief that referring errors led directly to two of the Wasps tries. The first, by Martyn Wood, came after the match officials had apparently missed the deflection of a clearing kick off a Wasps hand before Newcastle players were given offside.

Amid all the controversy

## Nature of defeat gives Newcastle bitter aftertaste

there was some outstanding rugby, notably from Josh Lewsey. His try, the first of the match, gave Wasps an advantage that they relinquished when Tuigamala appeared to be five metres out, only for Wasps to leave the burly Samoan free to score on the stroke of half-time.

Tuigamala twisted the ball even tighter five minutes into the second half. Rees hesitated in collecting a kick from Armstrong. Underwood swooped and Doddie Weir dispatched a long pass to Tuigamala on the left.

Wasps offered an immediate response, despite Andrew's vehement protests when Robin Goodliffe decided the first of the critical penalty awards in Wasps' favour.

Amid all the controversy

Wood dotted down the try after his forwards had provided the platform and when King added a penalty and a dropped goal, the London side were back in front.

Only for six minutes. Jim Naylor hit a brilliant attacking line on half-way and although Lewsey was back to tackle, Jonny Wilkinson arrived just in time to accept the pass and sprint to the posts. But Newcastle could not exert sufficient control and Tuigamala's tackle on Rees conceded vital ground. That there were four minutes left after Molloy's try was immaterial. With only 14 men and their tactical director gone, Newcastle's bolt was twisted.

**SCORERS:** Wasps: Tries: Lewsey (28min), King (65), Molloy (68); Conversions: King 2 (16, 30, 34, 44, 70); Penalties: King 2 (10, 20, 38, 57); Dropped goal: King (65). Newcastle Falcons: Tries: Tuigamala 2 (40, 45), Wilkinson (71); Conversions: King 2 (16, 30, 34, 43); Penalties: Wilkinson 4 (5, 17, 28, 43); Dropped goal: Tuigamala (65).

**SCORING SEQUENCE:** (West Hartlepool first): 0-3, 3-3, 3-6, 6-6, 13-6, 13-9, 16-9, 16-16 (try), 16-17, 18-17, 21-18, 24-16, 27-26, 27-33, 34-33.

**WESST HARTLEPOOL:** Tries: Farnell (rep: G McLellan, 20), T Hartnett, M McFarlane, A King (rep: D Gurney, 29), S John, S Vile, T Nuttall, S Sparkes, S McDonald, P Best (rep: K Fortune, 50), O Hyne, P Farmer, J Ponsonby, J Wright, S Green, G Vella, A Moore, D McFarland, A Rees (rep: D Boddy, 28-40, 51), S Shaw, D Doherty, P Voley, J Worley (rep: E Rist, 47), P Weston, P Arnold, R Beale, G Wix, P Weston, R Arnold, R Beale, G Weston, Referee: R Goodliffe (Yorkshire).

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## Northampton ready to extend field of dreams

Northampton..... 44  
London Scottish..... 13

By ALAN PEARCEY

IT LOOKS too late to stop Leicester winning the Allied Dunbar Premiership, but second-placed Northampton are already dreaming of a greater prize. "We'll be a force against anyone in Europe if we play like that," Ian McGeechan, the club's director of rugby, said. "The 15 minutes after half-time were special. Northampton were seen as a pretty side — now we're becoming a ruthless side. We've put the club where it's never been."

McGeechan will not concede the title to Leicester but may feel that their poor new year form on a glue-pot of a surface — what has improved New Zealand rugby most is quality of pitches, he said — will cost Northampton their first significant trophy. His spirits have been lifted by some devastating late-season form, with the defeat of London Scottish at Franklin's Gardens on Saturday taking Northampton's try haul to 17 in three games.

Nick Best had already had a try disallowed when he swooped for the opening score after 23 minutes and a three-try, ten-minute burst after half-time took the game way beyond the Exiles' reach.

Pat Lam, also denied a score by the

referee's whistle and felled brilliantly by Simon Fenni with the line beckoning, gained his reward at the third time of asking a minute from the end. It was Lam's twelfth league try of the season, putting him equal first with Steve Hanley, the injured Sale injured wing.

The presence of men like Lam, Tim Rodber and Federico Méndez gives the Northampton pack a menacing look not matched by a less experienced three-quarter line. Accordingly, they are seeking a world-class centre and wing for next season.

Scottish are not yet safe from relegation and the spectre looms of a play-off with Bristol, who have a holding in Scottish's professional club. Extraordinarily, they would approach such a meeting knowing that, while defeat would mean relegation, victory might mean that the West Country club would take them over and leave Scottish without a team at all.

**SCORERS:** Northampton: Tries: Best (23min), Poulton (24), McAsland (30), Conversions: Best 2 (14, 31); London Scottish: Tries: McAsland (64). Conversions: McAsland (64).

**SCORING SEQUENCE:** (Northampton first): 0-3, 3-3, 10-3, 13-3 (half-time), 20-8, 26-8, 32-8, 32-13.

**LONDON SCOTTISH:** Tries: N Best, C Moir, A Norrington (rep: C O'Leary, 11min); Conversions: N Best 2 (14, 31); Northampton: Tries: McAsland (64). Conversions: McAsland (64).

**SCORING SEQUENCE:** (London Irish first): 0-3, 5-3, 10-3, 13-3, 17-13, 20-8, 26-8, 32-8, 32-13.

**LONDON IRISH:** Tries: Todd 3 (30min, 49, 51), O'Shea (2), Hardwick (19), Bembridge (16), Burrow (42), McEvoy (45), Llewellyn (50), Conversions: Todd 3 (30, 49, 51); Bath: Tries: Tindall (40), Catt (53), Fear (69); Conversions: Catt 2. **PENALTY GOALS:** Catt 6 (2, 12, 58).

**SCORING SEQUENCE:** (London Irish first): 0-3, 5-3, 10-3, 13-3, 17-13, 20-8, 26-8, 32-8, 32-13.

**LONDON IRISH:** Tries: C O'Shea, S Bembridge, N Burrow, J Venter, T Todd, S Bembridge (rep: J Brown, 75min), P McEvoy (rep: A Venter, 50), G Llewellyn (rep: A Venter, 50), Catt (53), Fear (69); Conversions: Catt 2 (30, 49, 51); Bath: Tries: Tindall (40), Catt (53), Fear (69); Conversions: Catt 2. **PENALTY GOALS:** Catt 6 (2, 12, 58).

**SCORINGS:** London Irish: Tries: Todd 3 (30min, 49, 51), O'Shea (2), Hardwick (19), Bembridge (16), Burrow (42), McEvoy (45), Llewellyn (50), Conversions: Todd 3 (30, 49, 51); Bath: Tries: Tindall (40), Catt (53), Fear (69); Conversions: Catt 2. **PENALTY GOALS:** Catt 6 (2, 12, 58).

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**LONDON IRISH:** Tries: C O'Shea, S Bembridge, N Burrow, J Venter, T Todd, S Bembridge (rep: J Brown, 75min), P Mc

MONDAY APRIL  
Va'a sa  
Richmond  
with la  
decide

# Class divide proves too wide for Cross Keys

Swansea.....60  
Cross Keys.....3

By GERALD DAVIES

SWANSEA went farther than Cardiff, their fellow rebels, by reaching the final of the SWALEC Cup at Ninian Park on May 15. Their opponents will be Llanelli, who, incredibly, overcame Cardiff on Saturday and will be making their fourteenth appearance in the final, which they have managed to win on ten occasions.

Cross Keys were not a true match for Swansea yesterday at Sardis Road, Pontypridd, and the contest accentuated the difference between a leading club and one from a division below. It did not take long

Llanelli, who have won the Welsh knockout cup ten times, were comfortable winners over Cardiff in the other SWALEC Cup semi-final at the Brewery Field, Bridgend on Saturday. Bryn Hayward, the Llanelli fly half, kicked 24 points in an ill-tempered contest that pitted the Welsh league leaders against one of the "rebel" clubs.

for Swansea to register the first points. Cross Keys had not even visited their opponents' half before Mark Taylor had found space from a long pass by Arwel Thomas to make a break. Thrusting aside a couple of tackles, the centre managed to make it to the line.

A dropped goal by David Rees gave Cross Keys some hope, even though this was cancelled out by the first of two penalty goals from Thomas.

The next points did not come for another 20 minutes, a spell ended by a confident break by Thomas from his own half, the kind of break that is so typical of the player, which saw him cut through the defence from his own ten-metre line and should have extended the Swansea lead. In-

stead, having taken everybody by surprise, he ran out of support, but the movement did establish the pattern. Four tries came in quick succession in the next ten minutes, three of them to Matthew Robinson.

The first came from nothing so creative as the run by Thomas. An error by Rees in loose play saw Robinson latch on to the stray ball to run for the score. The next one was beautifully initiated by a three-quarter movement in their own half and a timely underhanded pass by Taylor to David Weatherley behind the back of his opposite number. Robinson outstripped the cover defence over 60 metres.

Swansea were now in rampant mood, with Thomas only offering a rare lark for relief. Both the try scored by Richard Rees and the third of Robinson's tries were initiated deep within their own half and were examples, at this stage, of Swansea's attacking mood.

Cross Keys offered some enterprise of their own, but the difference in speed, power and organisation of their opponents was noticeable. The closest that Cross Keys came was in the second half, when Bebb and Bushell contrived a brilliant move out of defence but were denied a try by Robinson's last-ditch tackle.

Swansea confirmed their superiority with further scores in the second period, but they failed to achieve the same fluidity and their tries lacked the panache of the early stages.

SCORERS: Swansea: Tries: Taylor (pen), Robinson 3 (2), 28, 36, 42; Rees 2 (7), 56; Maitlin 6 (5); Thomas 7 (4). Conversions: A Thomas 5, Davies 2. Penalty goals: A Thomas 2 (2), 33; Cross Keys: E Smith 3 (3).

SCORING SEQUENCE: (Swansea first: 7-0, 7-3, 10-3, 17-3, 24-3, 31-3, 38-3 (half time), 41-3, 46-3, 53-3, 60-3.)  
(Cross Keys first: 0-0, 0-3, 0-6, 0-9, 0-12, 0-15, 0-18, 0-21, 0-24, 0-27, 0-30, 0-33, 0-36, 0-39, 0-42, 0-45, 0-48, 0-51, 0-54, 0-57, 0-60, 0-63, 0-66, 0-69, 0-72, 0-75, 0-78, 0-81, 0-84, 0-87, 0-90, 0-93, 0-96, 0-99, 0-102, 0-105, 0-108, 0-111, 0-114, 0-117, 0-120, 0-123, 0-126, 0-129, 0-132, 0-135, 0-138, 0-141, 0-144, 0-147, 0-150, 0-153, 0-156, 0-159, 0-162, 0-165, 0-168, 0-171, 0-174, 0-177, 0-180, 0-183, 0-186, 0-189, 0-192, 0-195, 0-198, 0-201, 0-204, 0-207, 0-210, 0-213, 0-216, 0-219, 0-222, 0-225, 0-228, 0-231, 0-234, 0-237, 0-240, 0-243, 0-246, 0-249, 0-252, 0-255, 0-258, 0-261, 0-264, 0-267, 0-270, 0-273, 0-276, 0-279, 0-282, 0-285, 0-288, 0-291, 0-294, 0-297, 0-300, 0-303, 0-306, 0-309, 0-312, 0-315, 0-318, 0-321, 0-324, 0-327, 0-330, 0-333, 0-336, 0-339, 0-342, 0-345, 0-348, 0-351, 0-354, 0-357, 0-360, 0-363, 0-366, 0-369, 0-372, 0-375, 0-378, 0-381, 0-384, 0-387, 0-390, 0-393, 0-396, 0-399, 0-402, 0-405, 0-408, 0-411, 0-414, 0-417, 0-420, 0-423, 0-426, 0-429, 0-432, 0-435, 0-438, 0-441, 0-444, 0-447, 0-450, 0-453, 0-456, 0-459, 0-462, 0-465, 0-468, 0-471, 0-474, 0-477, 0-480, 0-483, 0-486, 0-489, 0-492, 0-495, 0-498, 0-501, 0-504, 0-507, 0-510, 0-513, 0-516, 0-519, 0-522, 0-525, 0-528, 0-531, 0-534, 0-537, 0-540, 0-543, 0-546, 0-549, 0-552, 0-555, 0-558, 0-561, 0-564, 0-567, 0-570, 0-573, 0-576, 0-579, 0-582, 0-585, 0-588, 0-591, 0-594, 0-597, 0-600, 0-603, 0-606, 0-609, 0-612, 0-615, 0-618, 0-621, 0-624, 0-627, 0-630, 0-633, 0-636, 0-639, 0-642, 0-645, 0-648, 0-651, 0-654, 0-657, 0-660, 0-663, 0-666, 0-669, 0-672, 0-675, 0-678, 0-681, 0-684, 0-687, 0-690, 0-693, 0-696, 0-699, 0-702, 0-705, 0-708, 0-711, 0-714, 0-717, 0-720, 0-723, 0-726, 0-729, 0-732, 0-735, 0-738, 0-741, 0-744, 0-747, 0-750, 0-753, 0-756, 0-759, 0-762, 0-765, 0-768, 0-771, 0-774, 0-777, 0-780, 0-783, 0-786, 0-789, 0-792, 0-795, 0-798, 0-801, 0-804, 0-807, 0-810, 0-813, 0-816, 0-819, 0-822, 0-825, 0-828, 0-831, 0-834, 0-837, 0-840, 0-843, 0-846, 0-849, 0-852, 0-855, 0-858, 0-861, 0-864, 0-867, 0-870, 0-873, 0-876, 0-879, 0-882, 0-885, 0-888, 0-891, 0-894, 0-897, 0-900, 0-903, 0-906, 0-909, 0-912, 0-915, 0-918, 0-921, 0-924, 0-927, 0-930, 0-933, 0-936, 0-939, 0-942, 0-945, 0-948, 0-951, 0-954, 0-957, 0-960, 0-963, 0-966, 0-969, 0-972, 0-975, 0-978, 0-981, 0-984, 0-987, 0-990, 0-993, 0-996, 0-999, 0-1002, 0-1005, 0-1008, 0-1011, 0-1014, 0-1017, 0-1020, 0-1023, 0-1026, 0-1029, 0-1032, 0-1035, 0-1038, 0-1041, 0-1044, 0-1047, 0-1050, 0-1053, 0-1056, 0-1059, 0-1062, 0-1065, 0-1068, 0-1071, 0-1074, 0-1077, 0-1080, 0-1083, 0-1086, 0-1089, 0-1092, 0-1095, 0-1098, 0-1101, 0-1104, 0-1107, 0-1110, 0-1113, 0-1116, 0-1119, 0-1122, 0-1125, 0-1128, 0-1131, 0-1134, 0-1137, 0-1140, 0-1143, 0-1146, 0-1149, 0-1152, 0-1155, 0-1158, 0-1161, 0-1164, 0-1167, 0-1170, 0-1173, 0-1176, 0-1179, 0-1182, 0-1185, 0-1188, 0-1191, 0-1194, 0-1197, 0-1200, 0-1203, 0-1206, 0-1209, 0-1212, 0-1215, 0-1218, 0-1221, 0-1224, 0-1227, 0-1230, 0-1233, 0-1236, 0-1239, 0-1242, 0-1245, 0-1248, 0-1251, 0-1254, 0-1257, 0-1260, 0-1263, 0-1266, 0-1269, 0-1272, 0-1275, 0-1278, 0-1281, 0-1284, 0-1287, 0-1290, 0-1293, 0-1296, 0-1299, 0-1302, 0-1305, 0-1308, 0-1311, 0-1314, 0-1317, 0-1320, 0-1323, 0-1326, 0-1329, 0-1332, 0-1335, 0-1338, 0-1341, 0-1344, 0-1347, 0-1350, 0-1353, 0-1356, 0-1359, 0-1362, 0-1365, 0-1368, 0-1371, 0-1374, 0-1377, 0-1380, 0-1383, 0-1386, 0-1389, 0-1392, 0-1395, 0-1398, 0-1401, 0-1404, 0-1407, 0-1410, 0-1413, 0-1416, 0-1419, 0-1422, 0-1425, 0-1428, 0-1431, 0-1434, 0-1437, 0-1440, 0-1443, 0-1446, 0-1449, 0-1452, 0-1455, 0-1458, 0-1461, 0-1464, 0-1467, 0-1470, 0-1473, 0-1476, 0-1479, 0-1482, 0-1485, 0-1488, 0-1491, 0-1494, 0-1497, 0-1500, 0-1503, 0-1506, 0-1509, 0-1512, 0-1515, 0-1518, 0-1521, 0-1524, 0-1527, 0-1530, 0-1533, 0-1536, 0-1539, 0-1542, 0-1545, 0-1548, 0-1551, 0-1554, 0-1557, 0-1560, 0-1563, 0-1566, 0-1569, 0-1572, 0-1575, 0-1578, 0-1581, 0-1584, 0-1587, 0-1590, 0-1593, 0-1596, 0-1599, 0-1602, 0-1605, 0-1608, 0-1611, 0-1614, 0-1617, 0-1620, 0-1623, 0-1626, 0-1629, 0-1632, 0-1635, 0-1638, 0-1641, 0-1644, 0-1647, 0-1650, 0-1653, 0-1656, 0-1659, 0-1662, 0-1665, 0-1668, 0-1671, 0-1674, 0-1677, 0-1680, 0-1683, 0-1686, 0-1689, 0-1692, 0-1695, 0-1698, 0-1701, 0-1704, 0-1707, 0-1710, 0-1713, 0-1716, 0-1719, 0-1722, 0-1725, 0-1728, 0-1731, 0-1734, 0-1737, 0-1740, 0-1743, 0-1746, 0-1749, 0-1752, 0-1755, 0-1758, 0-1761, 0-1764, 0-1767, 0-1770, 0-1773, 0-1776, 0-1779, 0-1782, 0-1785, 0-1788, 0-1791, 0-1794, 0-1797, 0-1800, 0-1803, 0-1806, 0-1809, 0-1812, 0-1815, 0-1818, 0-1821, 0-1824, 0-1827, 0-1830, 0-1833, 0-1836, 0-1839, 0-1842, 0-1845, 0-1848, 0-1851, 0-1854, 0-1857, 0-1860, 0-1863, 0-1866, 0-1869, 0-1872, 0-1875, 0-1878, 0-1881, 0-1884, 0-1887, 0-1890, 0-1893, 0-1896, 0-1899, 0-1902, 0-1905, 0-1908, 0-1911, 0-1914, 0-1917, 0-1920, 0-1923, 0-1926, 0-1929, 0-1932, 0-1935, 0-1938, 0-1941, 0-1944, 0-1947, 0-1950, 0-1953, 0-1956, 0-1959, 0-1962, 0-1965, 0-1968, 0-1971, 0-1974, 0-1977, 0-1980, 0-1983, 0-1986, 0-1989, 0-1992, 0-1995, 0-1998, 0-2001, 0-2004, 0-2007, 0-2010, 0-2013, 0-2016, 0-2019, 0-2022, 0-2025, 0-2028, 0-2031, 0-2034, 0-2037, 0-2040, 0-2043, 0-2046, 0-2049, 0-2052, 0-2055, 0-2058, 0-2061, 0-2064, 0-2067, 0-2070, 0-2073, 0-2076, 0-2079, 0-2082, 0-2085, 0-2088, 0-2091, 0-2094, 0-2097, 0-2100, 0-2103, 0-2106, 0-2109, 0-2112, 0-2115, 0-2118, 0-2121, 0-2124, 0-2127, 0-2130, 0-2133, 0-2136, 0-2139, 0-2142, 0-2145, 0-2148, 0-2151, 0-2154, 0-2157, 0-2160, 0-2163, 0-2166, 0-2169, 0-2172, 0-2175, 0-2178, 0-2181, 0-2184, 0-2187, 0-2190, 0-2193, 0-2196, 0-2199, 0-2202, 0-2205, 0-2208, 0-2211, 0-2214, 0-2217, 0-2220, 0-2223, 0-2226, 0-2229, 0-2232, 0-2235, 0-2238, 0-2241, 0-2244, 0-2247, 0-2250, 0-2253, 0-2256, 0-2259, 0-2262, 0-2265, 0-2268, 0-2271, 0-2274, 0-2277, 0-2280, 0-2283, 0-2286, 0-2289, 0-2292, 0-2295, 0-2298, 0-2301, 0-2304, 0-2307, 0-2310, 0-2313, 0-2316, 0-2319, 0-2322, 0-2325, 0-2328, 0-2331, 0-2334, 0-2337, 0-2340, 0-2343, 0-2346, 0-2349, 0-2352, 0-2355, 0-2358, 0-2361, 0-2364, 0-2367, 0-2370, 0-2373, 0-2376, 0-2379, 0-2382, 0-2385, 0-2388, 0-2391, 0-2394, 0-2397, 0-2400, 0-2403, 0-2406, 0-2409, 0-2412, 0-2415, 0-2418, 0-2421, 0-2424, 0-2427, 0-2430, 0-2433, 0-2436, 0-2439, 0-2442, 0-2445, 0-2448, 0-2451, 0-2454, 0-2457, 0-2460, 0-2463, 0-2466, 0-2469, 0-2472, 0-2475, 0-2478, 0-2481, 0-2484, 0-2487, 0-2490, 0-2493, 0-2496, 0-2499, 0-2502, 0-2505, 0-2508, 0-2511, 0-2514, 0-2517, 0-2520, 0-2523, 0-2526, 0-2529, 0-2532, 0-2535, 0-2538



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## SUNDAY LETTERS

## Fans' criticism of United a bit rich

**Matt Dickinson**  
says that anger  
over moves to  
tighten the Old  
Trafford purse  
strings is misplaced

For the crime of sharing a beer with Martin Edwards in a bar in Lodz late last year, the punishment was to be threatened with a bottle in the face. "How can you buy a drink for that traitor," the Manchester United fan snarled, his São Miguel brandished ever closer. In the best journalistic traditions, I made my excuses and left.

The drinking holes will be our of bounds once again this week as the lynch mob reconvenes in even greater numbers in Turin. Some of the fans are on the warpath again and the United chairman, as much as the Juventus supporters, is at the top of their list.

His crime, apart from becoming chairman in the first place, was to say that there will be no money available to Alex Ferguson this summer beyond that needed to replace Peter Schmeichel. "With spending £44 million over the next two seasons developing the ground to a capacity of 67,000 and also on the new training complex at Carrington there will be no more spending like last year [when £28 million purchased Jaap Stam, Dwight Yorke and Jesper Blomqvist]," Edwards said. "We have to make sure we do not go heavily into the red. It is not a bottomless pit, that is the reality of it." Cue howls of outrage.

The criticism will be nothing new to Edwards, who hears little else, and there is no doubt that his timing could have been better. The club has just been named the richest in the world, with a turnover in 1997 of £87.94 million, and supporters want to look forward to the second leg of their European Cup semi-final against Juventus on Wednesday rather than hear tales of hard times. But it has reached the stage where the criticism of Edwards is as demented as the *Manchester Evening News* poll that demanded Ferguson be fired a year after securing the Double in 1994.

It is a fact of life that supporters



share no more affinity with a club's board than they do with their bank manager — the responsibility to be prudent makes both appear killjoys — but Edwards is facing a barrage of abuse that goes beyond reason and it is time that the fans acknowledged their good fortune instead.

If their greatest desire is to see the best players coached by the best manager while they sit in the best ground in the country, then surely they are wallowing in the riches of Croesus at Old Trafford. And the man who has made it possible, if not through his own abilities then through astute delegation, is Edwards.

It was the supporters, after all, who wanted Ferguson dumped in 1989, when the club was underachieving, and it was Edwards who, with the advice of his board, en-

sured that he stayed. The chairman has probably not been put on the back too many times.

"Sack him," they cried in 1989, when Ince, Hughes and Kinschekius were sold, but, morally, sanity prevailed among the directors.

It is the way of supporters that they want everything both ways, never more so than when it comes to Old Trafford financing. They want the club to be hugely successful, which Edwards ensured by launching it on the Stock Exchange, and yet they also want it run by some kindly gentleman with a bottomless pit of cash. Like, except at Ewood Park, is not that?

Those supporters conveniently ignore the fact that many of them were hardly rushing to put their funds into the club when the first share issue was met by an under-

whelming response. So much for putting your money where your mouth is.

Hindsight is a wonderful thing for those with axes to grind, so Edwards is still criticised for the proposed sale to Michael Knighton for £10 million a decade ago, never mind that it was Knighton, rather than Edwards, who was seen as the screwball at the time. Now he is attacked for accepting a £623 million offer from BSkyB — 40 per cent owned by News International, owner of *The Times* — that was legally impossible, never mind daft without any rationale, to resist.

There are wider football arguments against the BSkyB takeover, but they make least sense of all from the mouths of United fans who may now, as Edwards's warning over transfer funds suggests,

Expensive tastes: United are not willing to plunge so heavily into the transfer market this summer after allowing Ferguson to spend £28 million to recruit Stam, left, Yorke and Blomqvist

lose out. There will be more money to spend than he will admit and his gloomy forecast is more an irritated response to those supporters who opposed the BSkyB deal than a realistic assessment, but the point is made nonetheless — Rupert Murdoch would have allowed heavier spending on players.

So, United will carry on with the same board until the next bid, probably a hostile one, and supporters can rest assured that it is in safe hands. Soaring wages, which have ruined other clubs, have been maintained at sensible levels. The best manager in the country will shortly become the highest-paid.

Yet still Edwards cannot win. The supporters want big-money signings but whinge that Old Trafford is run more like a corporation than a football club. They complain that the ground needs expanding and yet, when the prices go up to pay for the work — and are still cheaper than many of their rivals' — the chairman is accused of a rip-off. Supporters say he should sell the club and, when he offers to, he is branded a traitor. Then there is the issue of his £90 million worth of shares, which the real supporter would, of course, happily donate to the club. Are they sure?

Despite the fact that he knows more Manchester United trivia than half the Street End combined, Edwards will for ever have to live with the accusation that he is not a committed fan. He will probably be told it to his face this week in Turin. So it is no surprise to hear that he is increasingly tired of the day-to-day running of the club and may soon relinquish it for a place on the football board only. Then some other poor soul will become chief executive and get it in the neck for making United the most successful club in the country. It is a thankless task, even if it is a well-paid one.

## Auntie is guilty of missing real story

It is the compelling television image of an English spring — the tide of humanity pouring through the Greenwich Park gates to start the London Marathon. This year 31,583 dared and BBC Television cameras in the air and on the ground transmitted the scene, resembling molten lava gently descending a green mountain, to 102 countries around the world.

The beginning lit up a sombre Sunday morning and four hours of live TV immersed us in the curious interdependence of two opposite compulsions. There are four million who watch, as perhaps they view all things that move on the 20-inch screen in their homes, while 30,000 get out and run until they drop. Fascinating.

As the event grows ever larger, David Coleman and company are taxed to deal with its scope. Yesterday, the impression from the armchair was that they served the integrity of the competitive marathons — four simultaneous races in men's and women's elite and in the wheelchair contests — at the expense of the essence that makes London a unique marathon. The live broadcasts gave us more expertise on the few running for money than on the thousands jogging, walking, staggering to generate cash for charities.

I don't know how I would divide the airtime any differently. Skimp on the real races and Auntie, having lost some of her sporting jewels, would be accused of losing touch with the marathon. Yet the once-a-year story of so many "ordinary" people inspired, and being inspired, by the music of applause from crowds lining the Docklands and the landmarks of London, was thinly spread.

We needed more of Chris Moon, a man without half his limbs after a landmine explosion, defying the odds. We should have seen Spencer Oliver, a former boxer on the run from brain damage, pushing himself in aid of the hospital that saved his life. And, yes, the octogenarians who year by year make marathon perseverance appear child's play.

The serious stuff of marathons was won by Africans. Joyce Chepkemba, of Kenya, proved again that skeletal women cannot have



ROB HUGHES

TV VIEW

it all their own way; with lovely serenity, with sheer bounce in her legs, she strode clear to a \$125,000 (about £80,000) bonus for shaving the record time to 2hr 23min 22sec. "That's one priceless second inside the time," Coleman breathed. Actually, we knew it's precise worth, and the cash-register mind of Liz McColligan this year commented not running, instantly summed up: "She can come back and do it again."

Richard Nerurkar, a British runner who sat this one out on the back of a BBC motorbike, made a miscalculation shared by the leading men who let Abdelkader El Mouaziz, of Morocco, break away after the pacemakers dropped out. "El Mouaziz is committing suicide," Nerurkar said at the 15-mile post when the "Marrakesh Express" strode two minutes ahead. El Mouaziz had a minute to spare when he finished, waving to the crowd, in 2hr 7min 57sec. His timing had surprised commentators and opponents alike.

Behind him, and behind the thrilling finish in the men's wheelchair event, we glimpsed the first wedding on the marathon course, and the marriage of a £15 million fundraising event by thousands doing what they never imagined they could do.

Right at the start, the doyen Coleman had booked a certain entry in *Private Eye's Colemanballs* column. "One of the biggest problems they face," he said, "is wind."

No matter how easy Aer Lingus have made going to America, some people still fly with the competition. They choose not to have the luxury of clearing US immigration in a matter of minutes in Ireland. Instead, these people would rather spend anything up to 2 hours in a queue at immigration in America. Welcome to New York, chumps.

Aer Lingus

Some people wait years  
to enter the U.S.

Frankly I'm prepared to give  
it 10 minutes.

PENDA FRICKER  
ACTRESS







# Plato earns reward for slick display

By KEVIN EASON

FORTUNE favours the brave and Jason Plato yesterday capitalised on the uncertainty of his rivals to put himself in contention for the Auto Trader British touring car championship (BTCC). While the rest dithered and agonised whether to change tyres as the clouds rolled in over Silverstone, Plato just got on with it. He led from the start of the main feature race and, apart from a fright when he was nudged by the Volvo of Rickard Rydell, the Englishman was never troubled on his way to a surprise victory.

The day provided another boost for the minority contingent of British drivers in this series, with James Thompson doing enough to retain the lead in the overall championship. Plato is second followed Matt Neal, the independent driver who won £20,000 last time out as the first privateer to win a BTCC race. There was no fat cheque yesterday for Neal's Team

Dynamics, just a hard dose of reality and a blown engine. "You have to have had luck as well as good," Neal said. "So I suppose I had to expect that things might not go entirely my way."

Plato certainly never expected to be so well placed in the championship thanks to a victory that upset the pre-race formbook. The Nissan Primeras had showed remarkable pace all weekend and, after a one-two in the 15-lap sprint for Laurent Aiello and David Leslie, they were expected to dominate the crucial 30-lap event.

Plato, meanwhile, spent the day playing down his chances, insisting that his Renault Lagunas were still not fully prepared after it was late in development over the winter.

Plato, 31, found himself as team leader for this season after Alain Menu, the 1997 champion, joined Ford. Then he arrived at Silverstone in low spirits after the sudden

death of his mentor, Martin Sharpe, the head of Mardi Gras Motorsport, who revived Plato's flagging career by putting him into the Renault Spider championship in 1996. Plato went on to win the title, which was the springboard to the Renault touring car team.

"I am so pleased for the team after all that has happened over the winter and then there was the news of Martin," Plato said. "The weather obviously helped today and I had the chance to take advantage." As the cars lined up, the rain

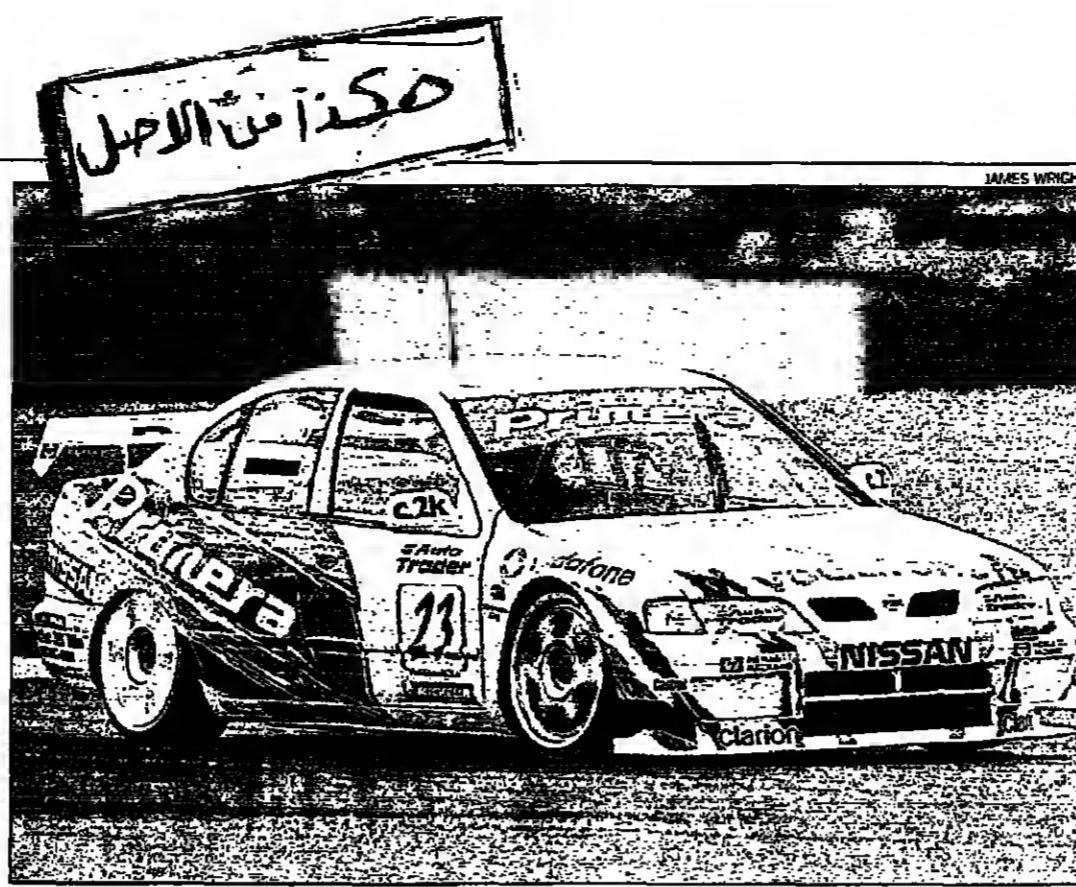
forced the brave like Plato, to play their poker hand, staying on slicks and gamble that they would have enough grip to survive until the track dried. Leslie, Neal and Thompson, however, all came in for intermediate rubber, choosing to start from the pitlane and hoping that they could cut through the field.

From fourth on the grid, Plato charged between Rydell and Aiello to grab the lead and stayed there. Behind him, Aiello fell away and Leslie struggled. Neal, too, failed to

make headway, although Thompson powered through the backmarkers and even a long pitstop failed to hold him back.

After broken steering ended the challenge of Rydell, the champion, Plato just had to stay on the circuit to win. Thompson says he will win the championship if he is consistent. That was his fourth time in the points in four races and that is championship form.

Results, page 40



## SPORT IN BRIEF

**AMERICAN FOOTBALL:** Scottish Claymores left it late to win their opening game of the NFL Europe season against Rhein Fire at Murrayfield yesterday (Richard Wetherell writes). A six-yard touchdown run by Dameyune Craig, their quarterback, with less than two minutes remaining, brought the scores level at 20-20 and Rob Hart, an Englishman, kicked the conversion to secure victory against the champions.

It was the only time that the Claymores were in front. They fell 7-0 behind in the first quarter, but Yo Murphy caught a 29-yard pass from Craig to level the scores. Fire went 20-7 ahead, but Matt Finkes brought Claymores back with a touchdown, which Hart converted, and Craig's touchdown and Hart's kick clinched it.

**SWIMMING:** China's preparations for the Olympic Games in Sydney 2000 are concentrated on taking a "clean squad" to Sydney, even at the expense of gold medals, a high-ranking sports official told Chinese state media said yesterday. The national swimming association's target is for China's representatives to win one gold medal in the women's events and any medal in the men's. China's women swimmers won one gold, three silver and two bronze at the 1996 Games.

**REAL TENNIS:** Penny Lumley, the world champion, underlined her dominance when she retained the Harvey Joseph British Open women's title at Holyport, beating Kae Leeming, the Australian professional, in straight sets (Sally Jones writes). Lumley, on her home court, did not drop a set throughout the event and outlasted Charlotte Cornwellis, the much-improved British professional, in the semi-finals.

**TENNIS:** Felix Mantilla, right, defeated Karim Alami, of Morocco, 7-6, 6-3, 6-3, to win the Barcelona Open yesterday and delight the home crowd. Mantilla took a 4-0 lead over Alami, the world No 83, before the Moroccan recovered to force a tie-break. In the second set, Mantilla broke for 5-3 to claim the set and the Spaniard took the third in similar style.



**CYCLING:** Frank Vandenbroucke fulfilled his billing as Belgium's most exciting talent since Eddy Merckx with victory in the oldest one-day classic of the professional season, the Liège-Bastogne-Liège race, yesterday. Vandenbroucke, a consistently highly placed in the spring classics this year, attacked six kilometres from the finish in the Liège suburbs to claim his first win in the race.

**NETBALL:** Bedfordshire have won the inter-county tournament for the first time, beating Derbyshire 17-15 in the final at the Acklam Sports Centre in Middlesbrough yesterday (Cathy Harris writes). It was third time lucky for Bedfordshire after beating Middlesex, the holders, in the semi-final, while Derbyshire beat Essex Met, the pre-tournament favourites.

**CRICKET:** Glenn McGrath, the Australia pace bowler, twisted his ankle in the third one-day international defeat by West Indies on Saturday and was ruled out of the fourth meeting yesterday. West Indies went 2-1 up in the seven-match series as Jimmy Adams, Sherwin Campbell and Carl Hooper made half-centuries in West Indies' successful chase for a target of 243, reached with five wickets and an over to spare.

## SATURDAY'S RACING RESULTS

### Newbury

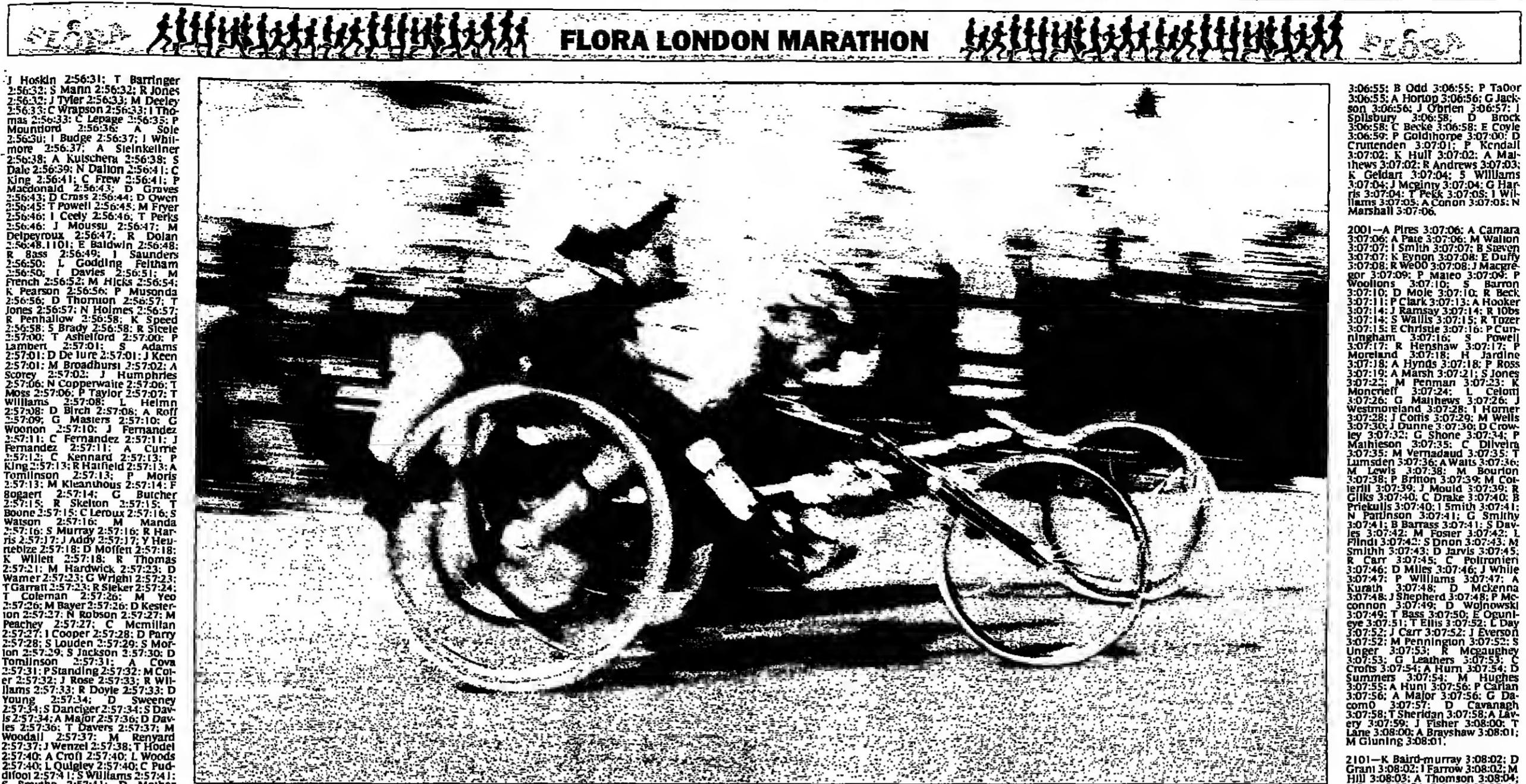
Going: good to firm  
2.00pm: Grizzlow (10-1), 2. High And Mighty (10-1), 3. King Deniz (8-1), 4. King Pham (12-1), 22 ran.

2.30pm: Sadien (5-1), 2. The Glow-Worm (10-1), 3. Shaya (10-1), 4. The Sun (10-1), 5. The Sun (10-1), 6. The Sun (10-1), 7. Xeno (10-1), 8. Xeno (10-1), 9. Xeno (10-1), 10. Xeno (10-1), 11. Xeno (10-1), 12. Xeno (10-1), 13. Xeno (10-1), 14. Xeno (10-1), 15. Xeno (10-1), 16. Xeno (10-1), 17. Xeno (10-1).

2.30pm: 1. Bomb Alaska (12-1), 2. Topalon (12-1), 3. Bomb Alaska (12-1), 4. Panter (9-2), 19. 13 ran.

3.00pm: 1. Bonita (12-1), 2. Mr. Ted (12-1), 3. Mr. Ted (12-1), 4. Mr. Ted (12-1), 5. Mr. Ted (12-1), 6. Mr. Ted (12-1), 7. Mr. Ted (12-1), 8. Mr. Ted (12-1), 9. Mr. Ted (12-1), 10. Mr. Ted (12-1), 11. Mr. Ted (12-1), 12. Mr. Ted (12-1), 13. Mr. Ted (12-1), 14. Mr. Ted (12-1), 15. Mr. Ted (12-1), 16. Mr. Ted (12-1), 17. Mr. Ted (12-1), 18. Mr. Ted (12-1), 19. Mr. Ted (12-1), 20. Mr. Ted (12-1), 21. Mr. Ted (12-1), 22. Mr. Ted (12-1), 23. Mr. Ted (12-1), 24. Mr. Ted (12-1), 25. Mr. Ted (12-1), 26. Mr. Ted (12-1), 27. Mr. Ted (12-1), 28. Mr. Ted (12-1), 29. Mr. Ted (12-1), 30. Mr. Ted (12-1), 31. Mr. Ted (12-1), 32. Mr. Ted (12-1), 33. Mr. Ted (12-1), 34. Mr. Ted (12-1), 35. Mr. Ted (12-1), 36. Mr. Ted (12-1), 37. Mr. Ted (12-1), 38. Mr. Ted (12-1), 39. Mr. Ted (12-1), 40. Mr. Ted (12-1), 41. Mr. Ted (12-1), 42. Mr. Ted (12-1), 43. Mr. Ted (12-1), 44. Mr. Ted (12-1), 45. Mr. Ted (12-1), 46. Mr. Ted (12-1), 47. Mr. Ted (12-1), 48. Mr. Ted (12-1), 49. Mr. Ted (12-1), 50. 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**Rolling Mall:** racers in the wheelchair marathon speed past Buckingham Palace towards the finishing straight. The men's race was won by the Swiss, Heinz Frei. Photograph: Gavin Fogg

J. Hoskin 2:56:31; T. Barringer 2:56:32; S. Morris 2:56:32; R. Jones 2:56:33; C. Wrappson 2:56:33; T. Ho mas 2:56:33; L. Lepage 2:56:35; P. Mountain 2:56:36; A. Sole 2:56:37; J. Baker 2:56:37; I. Halliwell 2:56:37; A. Steinke 2:56:38; A. Kutschera 2:56:39; N. Dalton 2:56:41; C. King 2:56:41; C. Frew 2:56:41; P. Doherty 2:56:42; M. Hockley 2:56:43; D. Cross 2:56:44; D. Owen 2:56:45; T. Powell 2:56:45; M. Fryer 2:56:46; I. Ceely 2:56:46; T. Perks 2:56:47; S. Moore 2:56:47; M. Delpeyroux 2:56:47; R. Dolm 2:56:48; E. Baldwin 2:56:48; R. Bass 2:56:49; S. Saunders 2:56:49; C. Goulding 2:56:50; I. Davies 2:56:51; M. French 2:56:52; M. Hicks 2:56:54; K. Pearson 2:56:58; S. Musonda 2:56:59; C. Thompson 2:56:59; T. Jones 2:56:57; N. Holmes 2:56:57; R. Penhallow 2:56:58; K. Speed 2:56:59; S. Bay 2:56:59; E. Steele 2:56:59; A. Ashton 2:56:59; P. Lambert 2:57:01; S. Adams 2:57:01; D. De Jure 2:57:01; J. Keen 2:57:01; M. Gibbons 2:57:01; A. Scott 2:57:02; J. Hough 2:57:02; N. Copperwaite 2:57:06; T. Moss 2:57:06; P. Taylor 2:57:07; T. Williams 2:57:07; S. Hepple 2:57:08; T. Birch 2:57:08; R. Doff 2:57:09; G. Masters 2:57:10; G. Walker 2:57:10; E. Fernandez 2:57:11; C. Lopez 2:57:11; P. Fernandez 2:57:11; A. Currie 2:57:12; C. Kennedy 2:57:13; P. Hart 2:57:13; J. Hart 2:57:13; A. Tomlinson 2:57:13; A. Morris 2:57:13; M. Bogeraert 2:57:14; F. Bogaert 2:57:14; G. Butcher 2:57:14; C. Lovell 2:57:15; C. Leroux 2:57:16; S. Watson 2:57:16; M. Manda 2:57:16; S. Murray 2:57:16; R. Har tridge 2:57:16; S. O'Brien 2:57:16; R. Rebbizie 2:57:18; D. Moffett 2:57:18; K. Willett 2:57:18; R. Thomas 2:57:21; M. Hardwick 2:57:23; D. Scott 2:57:23; J. R. Williams 2:57:23; T. Carroll 2:57:23; R. Stoker 2:57:23; T. Coleman 2:57:26; M. Yeo 2:57:26; M. Bayes 2:57:26; D. Kester 2:57:27; C. McMillan 2:57:27; M. Peache 2:57:27; C. Cooper 2:57:27; D. Parry 2:57:28; S. Loudon 2:57:29; S. Mori 2:57:29; C. McMillan 2:57:29; D. Tomlinson 2:57:31; A. Cova 2:57:31; P. Standing 2:57:32; M. Collier 2:57:32; J. Ross 2:57:32; D. Iiams 2:57:34; R. Doff 2:57:34; D. Young 2:57:34; D. Sweeney 2:57:34; S. Danciger 2:57:34; A. Major 2:57:34; D. Davison 2:57:34; C. Lovell 2:57:34; M. Woodall 2:57:37; M. Rennard 2:57:37; J. Wenzel 2:57:38; T. Hodel 2:57:38; A. Pollitt 2:57:40; T. Woods 2:57:40; C. Quigley 2:57:40; J. Edilson 2:57:41; S. Williams 2:57:41; S. Smythe 2:57:41; D. Mather 2:57:44; D. Cook 2:57:44.

S. Scott 2:58:22; M. Beckett 2:58:23; G. Brown 2:58:23; B. Chapman 2:58:23; B. Gurney 2:58:23; P. Richardson 2:58:23; S. Kristensen 2:58:24; T. Owen 2:58:24; A. Sheehan 2:58:24; G. Blundell 2:58:24; M. Edwards 2:58:24; N. Hall 2:58:24; S. Purmess 2:58:23; E. King 2:58:34; T. Williams 2:58:35; T. Maud 2:58:35; M. Edwards 2:58:26; P. Mel 2:58:35; P. Vondra 2:58:27; N. Hart 2:58:26; K. Wood 2:58:27; N. Williams 2:58:28; C. Lovell 2:58:28; J. Hunter 2:58:29; S. Wells 2:58:29; M. Cooper 2:58:30; A. Allen 2:58:30; D. Edwards 2:58:30; H. Eldring 2:58:30; C. Lovell 2:58:30; M. St John 2:58:31; J. Stonefield 2:58:32; L. Frondella 2:58:33; G. Lloyd 2:58:33; A. Kainya 2:58:45; E. Graham 2:58:45; C. Lovell 2:58:45; P. Hetherington 2:58:45; R. Cooper 2:58:45; D. Ardal 2:58:45; F. King 2:58:45; U. Goss 2:58:45; S. Jones 2:58:45; P. Sturrock 2:58:45; P. Harrison 2:58:45; Marshall 2:58:43; S. Smallman 2:58:44; J. Griffith 2:58:45.

M. Cawthron 2:58:44; M. Graham 2:57:45; M. Dalton 2:57:45; K. Kainya 2:57:45; E. Graham 2:57:45; C. Lovell 2:57:46; P. Fernandez 2:57:47; S. Miller 2:57:47; I. Hales 2:57:49; D. Edwards 2:57:50; H. Eldring 2:57:50; C. Lovell 2:57:50; M. St John 2:57:51; J. Stonefield 2:57:52; L. Frondella 2:57:53; G. Lloyd 2:57:53; A. Kainya 2:57:54; E. Graham 2:57:54; P. Hetherington 2:57:54; R. Cooper 2:57:54; S. Jones 2:57:54; A. Major 2:57:54; D. Davison 2:57:54; C. Lovell 2:57:54; M. Woodall 2:57:57; M. Rennard 2:57:57; J. Wenzel 2:57:58; T. Hodel 2:57:58; A. Pollitt 2:57:58; T. Woods 2:57:58; C. Quigley 2:57:58; P. Edilson 2:57:58; J. Fallon 2:58:01; R. Burton 2:58:01; D. Dunk 2:58:02; T. Nightingale 2:58:03; J. Richardson 2:58:03; R. Cashmore 2:58:04; K. Smith 2:58:04; R. Everard 2:58:05; G. Haakums 2:58:06; P. Charles 2:58:07; M. Beckett 2:58:07; R. Pollitt 2:58:08; J. Wenzel 2:58:08; R. Collier 2:58:08; C. Allard 2:58:10; K. Adkins 2:58:10; M. Hartney 2:58:10; G. Hall 2:58:11; R. Morris 2:58:11; D. Pollitt 2:58:11; M. Housden 2:58:13; G. Fine 2:58:14; P. Forte 2:58:14; R. Bonham 2:58:15; C. McKinlay 2:58:15; G. Lovell 2:58:15; N. Gregory 2:58:16; N. St John 2:58:16; S. Stewart 2:58:18; P. McCoy 2:58:18; C. Douglas 2:58:18; P. Dakku 2:58:18; D. Prest 2:58:19; G. Bodie 2:58:19; C. Lovell 2:58:19; M. St John 2:58:19; D. Hubard 2:58:20; J. Goodman 2:58:20; T. G. Cook 2:58:21; R. Burton 2:58:21; D. Cai lo 2:58:21.

**Men's wheelchair race:** the race was won by the Swiss, Heinz Frei. Photograph: Gavin Fogg

**Women's wheelchair race:** the race was won by the Swiss, Monica Wetterstrom. Photograph: Gavin Fogg

**Men's 26 miles race:** the race was won by the Swiss, Heinz Frei. Photograph: Gavin Fogg

**Women's 26 miles race:** the race was won by the Swiss, Monica Wetterstrom. Photograph: Gavin Fogg

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**Men's 26 miles race:** the race was won by the Swiss, Heinz Frei. Photograph: Gavin Fogg

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## FLORA LONDON MARATHON

## LONDON BOROUGH RESULTS FOR THE TIMES MINI MARATHON

## BOYS 11-12

1 C Nortis 15.26 BM; 2 N Jones 15.41 CA; 3 M Bailey 16.00 WA; 4 R Thorne 16.04 BA; 5 J Brumfitt 16.08; 6 S Doherty 16.10; 7 S Ure 16.12; 8 A Adenekan 16.22 BM; 9 T Bristow 16.25 WA; 9 C Hammon 16.27; 10 S Chapman 16.27 RI; 11 L Marshall 16.30; 12 S Ure 16.39; 13 M Morris 16.42 EN; 14 Jve 16.46 KI; 15 J Amarsseken 16.46; 16 D Hooper 16.46 SU; 17 E Redshaw 16.48 WA; 18 O Sutcliffe 16.49 BM; 19 J Williams 16.50; 20 S Lomax 16.57 HN; 21 T Eglington 16.57 WA; 22 J Collier 17.03 LE; 23 P Canavan 17.04 SU; 24 D Humphries 17.05 BM; 25 D O'Connor 17.06 NE; 26 A Connor 17.08 CA; 27 A Colker 17.08 HR; 28 O Hazel 17.09 CA; 30 M McManus 17.10 BM; 31 J Hart 17.12 HN; 32 A Goss 17.12 HN; 33 R Howie 17.13 HN; 34 D Nolan 17.15 BM; 35 S Leach 17.15 BM; 36 T Fletcher 17.17 GR; 37 J Taylor 17.18 GR; 38 J Whittle 17.19 BM; 39 D Waddington 17.19 BM; 40 D Ayer 17.19 RI; 41 J Harding 17.19 RI; 42 F Hart 17.20 CA; 44 D O'Connor 17.20 BM; 45 J Morris 17.22 HN; 46 J McManus 17.23 BM; 47 R Hanson 17.24 HN; 48 A Ulrich 17.28 WA; 49 C Cunningham 17.29 BM; 50 J Williams 17.30 BM; 51 P Coughlin 17.32 ME; 52 C Stearn 17.33 CA; 53 M Chambers 17.33 BM; 54 M Johnson 17.33 SU; 55 J Goodwin 17.34 BM; 56 S Doherty 17.34 BM; 57 J Griffiths 17.35 SD; 58 S Richard 17.38 GR; 59 M Roberts 17.38 LA; 60 J Morris 17.39 BM; 61 S Doherty 17.39 RI; 62 A Rawlings 17.40 EN; 63 D Godward 17.41 BM; 64 R Cunningham 17.42 BM; 65 D McManus 17.43 BM; 66 A McManus 17.43 BM; 67 D Medium 17.44 BM; 68 L Turner 17.44 BM; 69 J West 17.45 BM; 70 S Doherty 17.45 BM; 71 Gradowski 17.47 RE; 72 N Morris 17.47 BM; 73 N Morris 17.47 RE; 74 C Culien 17.49 RE; 75 A Gurney 17.52 BM; 76 J Horn 17.53 GR; 77 M McDermott 17.54 BM; 78 J West 17.54 BM; 79 C McFadden 17.55 BM; 80 B Scipione 17.55 SU; 81 B Rayner 17.55 BM; 82 L Danagher 17.56 CA; 83 M Johnson 17.56 BM; 84 S Doherty 17.56 BM; 85 D McManus 17.56 BM; 86 S Doherty 17.56 BM; 87 T Chagar 18.05 NE; 88 J Woodhouse 18.06 BM; 89 J McManus 18.06 BM; 90 J West 18.06 BM; 91 D Marsh 18.10 LE; 92 M Shirey 18.10 BM; 93 J West 18.10 BM; 94 M McManus 18.10 BM; 95 J McManus 18.16 BM; 96 M Tollemache 18.17 KI; 97 J Finn 18.18 ME; 98 J Edwards 18.19 EN; 99 P Yorath 18.19 EN; 100 J McManus 18.20 BM; 101 A Richards 18.22 GR; 102 J Dillon 18.24 HO; 103 A Prazdnyk 18.25 BM; 104 R McManus 18.25 BM; 105 J McManus 18.25 BM; 106 J McManus 18.28 RE; 107 S Harris 18.29 EA; 108 C O'Han 18.32 BM; 109 X Bourne 18.32 BM; 110 J McManus 18.32 BM; 111 D Larkham 18.32 BM; 112 L Franklin 18.32 BM; 113 L Pethmann 18.33 SU; 114 J Brady 18.33 BM; 115 J Bamford 18.34 BM; 116 A McManus 18.34 BM; 117 J McManus 18.35 CR; 118 B Field 18.36 BM; 119 J Trebil 18.36 BM; 120 J McManus 18.37 BM; 121 J McManus 18.38 BM; 122 J McManus 18.39 BM; 123 J McManus 18.40 BM; 124 J McManus 18.41 BM; 125 J McManus 18.42 BM; 126 J McManus 18.43 BM; 127 J McManus 18.44 BM; 128 J McManus 18.45 BM; 129 J McManus 18.46 BM; 130 J McManus 18.47 BM; 131 J McManus 18.48 BM; 132 J McManus 18.49 BM; 133 J McManus 18.50 BM; 134 A McDonald 18.51 BM; 135 J McManus 18.52 BM; 136 J McManus 18.53 BM; 137 J McManus 18.54 BM; 138 J McManus 18.55 BM; 139 J McManus 18.56 BM; 140 J McManus 18.57 BM; 141 J McManus 18.58 BM; 142 J McManus 18.59 BM; 143 J McManus 18.60 BM; 144 J McManus 18.61 BM; 145 J McManus 18.62 BM; 146 J McManus 18.63 BM; 147 J McManus 18.64 BM; 148 J McManus 18.65 BM; 149 J McManus 18.66 BM; 150 J McManus 18.67 BM; 151 J McManus 18.68 BM; 152 J McManus 18.69 BM; 153 J McManus 18.70 BM; 154 J McManus 18.71 BM; 155 J McManus 18.72 BM; 156 J McManus 18.73 BM; 157 J McManus 18.74 BM; 158 J McManus 18.75 BM; 159 J McManus 18.76 BM; 160 J McManus 18.77 BM; 161 J McManus 18.78 BM; 162 J McManus 18.79 BM; 163 J McManus 18.80 BM; 164 J McManus 18.81 BM; 165 J McManus 18.82 BM; 166 J McManus 18.83 BM; 167 J McManus 18.84 BM; 168 J McManus 18.85 BM; 169 J McManus 18.86 BM; 170 J McManus 18.87 BM; 171 J McManus 18.88 BM; 172 J McManus 18.89 BM; 173 J McManus 18.90 BM; 174 J McManus 18.91 BM; 175 J McManus 18.92 BM; 176 J McManus 18.93 BM; 177 J McManus 18.94 BM; 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## RESULTS AND STATISTICS

## TODAY

Interims: ABF, Bellway, Finsas: CMC Properties, Densitron Imp, Ferrars Group, Harvey Nash, Offshore Tool & Energy. Economic statistics: none scheduled.

## TOMORROW

Interims: Air Partner, Debenhams, McCarthy & Stone, Smiths Group, TGI, Finalists: Hughes (7), STI, Ives, Versailles Group. Economic statistics: GfK April consumer confidence survey, March consumer price indices, March public sector finance.

## WEDNESDAY

Interims: DFS Furniture, Finsas: Bank of Scotland, Lambert Smith & Hampton, Liberty, United Overseas, Warfront Investments. Economic statistics: March labour market report.

## THURSDAY

Interims: Abbey National (Q1), ICI (Q1), Finalists: Ted Baker, Folkes Group, Havelock Europe, IBS Sports, Plantation & General, Principeal Group. Economic statistics: March retail sales, March provisional M4, M4 lending, BBA March bank lending, BSA March building society lending, March final MO.

## FRIDAY

Interims: none listed. Finalists: Austin Reed, World Telecom. Economic statistics: GDP (Q1).

## SUNDAY TIPS

The Sunday Times: Buy Syntex, Hogg, Robinson, Sherwood. The Sunday Telegraph: Buy Powergen, Debenhams, Eidos, Bulmer, Self Skills Group. The Observer: Buy John Lusty. The Mail on Sunday: Buy Saatchi & Saatchi, Sunday Express: Buy Rosebys, Mowlem, Clydesdale, Hold Mayflower.

## CHANGE ON WEEK

## THE POUND

US Dollar 1.6144 (+0.0086)  
Euro 0.6632 (-0.0079)  
Exchange index 103.5 (+0.9)  
Bank of England official close (Aprm)

## SPRING TIPS

FT 30 share 4021.1 (+78.9)  
FTSE 100 6420.6 (-52.2)  
New York Dow Jones 10493.89 (+320.05)  
Tokyo Nikkei Ave 16851.58 (-4.05)

## NET PROFITS

[www.times-money.co.uk](http://www.times-money.co.uk)

## INTEREST RATES EFFECTIVE FROM 16TH APRIL 1999.

FLEMING  
Premier Banking

Account Balance	Old AER %	Old Gross %	New AER %	New Gross %	New Net %
<b>Investment Account - paid quarterly</b>					
£100,000+	4.84	4.75	4.85	4.50	3.80
£50,000 - 99,999	4.85	4.80	4.85	4.25	3.40
£25,000 - 49,999	4.85	4.25	4.85	4.00	3.20
£10,000 - 9,999	3.55	3.50	3.25	3.25	2.60
£5,000 - 9,999	3.55	3.50	3.25	3.25	1.85
£1,000 - 4,999	2.27	2.25	2.25	2.25	1.25
£0 - 4,999	2.27	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.40
<b>Premier Account - paid monthly</b>					
£100,000+	3.25	3.20	3.04	3.00	2.40
£25,000 - 99,999	3.25	3.20	3.04	3.00	2.00
£10,000 - 24,999	3.25	2.10	1.75	1.75	1.40
£5,000 - 9,999	1.71	1.70	1.25	1.25	1.00
£1,000 - 4,999	0.65	0.65	0.50	0.50	0.40
<b>Corporate Account - paid quarterly</b>					
£25,000+	3.20	3.25	3.04	3.00	2.40
£10,000 - 24,999	3.20	2.75	2.55	2.55	2.00
£5,000 - 9,999	1.91	1.70	1.25	1.25	1.00
£1,000 - 4,999	1.11	1.05	0.85	0.85	0.60
<b>Sav &amp; Prosper 30 - paid monthly</b>					
£5,000+	5.48	5.35	5.25	5.10	4.60
£10,000 - 24,999	5.48	5.25	5.15	5.00	4.00
£10,000 - 24,999	5.48	4.95	4.85	4.50	3.60
£5,000 - 9,999	3.85	3.75	3.55	3.80	2.80
£1,000 - 4,999	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.40
<b>Asset 30 - paid monthly</b>					
£100,000+	5.38	5.25	5.12	5.00	4.00
£25,000 - 99,999	5.38	4.80	4.75	4.65	3.75
£10,000 - 24,999	4.85	4.75	4.55	4.50	3.60
£5,000 - 9,999	2.87	2.75	2.65	2.55	1.90
£1,000 - 4,999	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.40
<b>Sav &amp; Prosper Investment Account - paid quarterly</b>					
£100,000+	4.84	4.75	4.58	4.50	3.80
£25,000 - 99,999	4.85	4.80	4.55	4.50	3.40
£10,000 - 24,999	4.85	4.25	4.05	4.00	3.20
£5,000 - 9,999	3.55	3.50	3.25	3.25	2.60
£1,000 - 4,999	2.27	2.25	2.25	2.25	1.85
<b>Save &amp; Prosper Reward 30 - paid monthly</b>					
£5,000+	5.48	5.35	5.25	5.10	4.60
£10,000 - 24,999	5.48	5.25	5.12	5.00	4.00
£10,000 - 24,999	5.48	4.95	4.85	4.50	3.60
£5,000 - 9,999	3.85	3.75	3.55	3.80	2.80
£1,000 - 4,999	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.40
<b>Sav &amp; Prosper Fast-Track ISA - paid monthly</b>					
£5,000+	5.48	4.95	4.85	4.50	3.60
£10,000 - 24,999	5.48	4.75	4.55	4.50	3.60
£5,000 - 9,999	3.85	3.75	3.55	3.80	2.80
£1,000 - 4,999	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.40
<b>ACCOUNTS NO LONGER OFFERED TO NEW DEPOSITORS</b>					
<b>Classic Account - paid monthly</b>					
£100,000+	2.53	2.50	2.27	2.25	1.80
£25,000 - 99,999	2.02	2.00	1.77	1.75	1.40
£10,000 - 24,999	1.31	1.50	1.25	1.25	1.00
£5,000 - 9,999	1.10	1.00	0.75	0.75	0.60
£1,000 - 4,999	0.65	0.65	0.60	0.60	0.40
<b>Deposit Account</b>					
£100,000+	3.29	3.25	3.03	3.00	2.40
£25,000 - 99,999	2.78	2.75	2.65	2.60	2.00
£10,000 - 24,999	0.65	0.65	0.60	0.60	0.40
<b>Higher Rate Deposit Account</b>					
£25,000 - 99,999	4.01	3.95	3.55	3.50	2.80
£10,000 - 24,999	3.75	3.70	3.28	3.25	2.60
£5,000 - 9,999	3.24	3.20	2.78	2.75	2.00
£1,000 - 4,999	1.51	1.50	1.00	1.00	0.80
£0 - 4,999	0.60	0.60	0.60	0.60	0.40
<b>Term Account - paid annually</b>					
Variety Fund	5.50	5.50	5.25	5.25	-
Funds	5.00	5.00	4.50	4.50	-

## ABF management under microscope

## COMPANIES

ASSOCIATED BRITISH FOODS: ABF starts the week's reporting of results with the publication of its interim figures today.

The numbers are likely to be pretty dull. Henderson Crosthwaite, the stockbroker with a strong reputation for its coverage of food companies, expects the group to make £194 million for the six months to last March. In the comparable previous period, it made £193 million.

However, observers will look keenly for signs of change in the management approach. Garry Weston, chairman and chief executive of the group since 1987 and the man who invented Wagon Wheels, told shareholders last December that Peter Jackson — who currently heads ABF's British Sugar arm — would step up to the chief executive role. In addition, ABF disclosed at the end of March that it was appointing John Basin as finance director. The post had been vacant before his appointment.

However, Mr Jackson does not take up his position until June, and Mr Basin — formerly with the packaging group Bumzl — does not start until May.

ABF has a long and strong track record. However, its shares have suffered in recent months as doubts circulated about the impact of the strong pound on its profitability.

The group sells many products — including Kingsmill bread, Silver Spoon sugar and Twinings tea — through the supermarkets, and the stores

have kept their suppliers in a vice-like price grip.

ABF also has about £1.4 billion of cash. There may be news about plans to use this money on acquisitions — perhaps in the US and on higher added-value ingredients products. However, with interest rates on the downward path over the past six months, the income from this pile of cash is likely to have fallen — a fact that exerts more pressure on ABF's profitability.

It is thought that the dividend will edge up to 4.5p.

DEBENHAMS: After being crowned Retailer of the Year in the *Retail Week* awards two months ago, Debenhams will have much to live up to when it returns its interim results tomorrow.

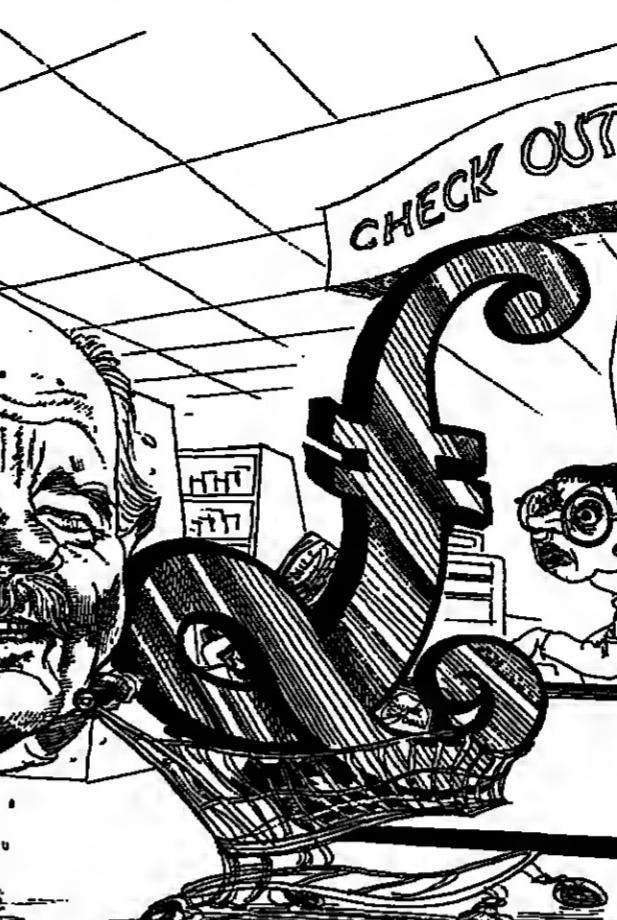
Terry Green, who has been chief executive of the department store company since its demerger from Burton Group last year, has already given warning that underlying sales were down 25 per cent over the Christmas period, with total sales down 14 per cent.

However, City analysts believe that the underlying decline will have steadied to 2 per cent in recent weeks, with total sales up by 1.8 per cent.

The company will have made heavy price cuts to shift unwanted Christmas stock which is certain to have taken its toll of profit margins.

BT Alex Brown, the broker, expects profits of £7.7 million for the six months to February, against £7.1 million last time. Earnings per share should creep up by 0.1p, to 13.9p, and the interim dividend should be 4.4p (3.9p).

BANK OF SCOTLAND: The group looks poised to report annual profits of more than £1 billion, up 37 per cent, on Wednesday. The profits will be boosted by a £164 million gain on the sale of the Countywide Bank of New Zealand. However,



Garry Weston is forecast to wheel in £194 million profits from Associated British Foods today

er, underlying profits are still expected to have increased by 13 per cent. The main driver of this is expected to be the 10 per cent increase in net interest income on the back of strong growth. Group costs are forecast to come in at £98 million. Provisions are expected to fall.

The menswear retailer is tipped to report a 29 per cent drop in pre-tax earnings, to £6 million, after adjustments for its acquisition of Country Casuals in January last year.

The company disclosed in January



# Scottish unions win concessions in PFI debate

By CHRISTINE BUCKLEY, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

LABOUR has offered concessions on the way that the Private Finance Initiative operates in Scotland to avert a clash with the trade unions in the run-up to the Scottish parliament elections.

The Scottish Trades Union Congress, which begins its annual conference in Glasgow today, yesterday watered down its stance on government policy to bring private money into public services after Gordon Brown promised safeguards

on the pay and working conditions of health service employees. The deal could involve allowing unions a role in evaluating bidders seeking to build new hospitals.

The Government is anxious to avoid a rift with the traditionally militant STUC for fear of fuelling support among union members for the Scottish Nationalist Party.

Today Donald Dewar, the Scottish Secretary, will warn the STUC of the economic

dangers of endorsing full independence. He has brought forward his appearance from Thursday when he was originally scheduled to speak. Alex Salmond, the SNP leader, will address a fringe meeting today.

Labour has spent months lobbying union leaders on the dangers for its electoral campaign in Scotland if the STUC conference becomes a platform for the Government's critics.

The PFI — or public/private partnership as Labour now prefers to call it — has long been a controversial issue with unions who complain that job security and conditions are less favourable in private employment than in the public sector. They also believe that while the PFI may be a cheap way to fund public building in the short term, it is an expensive one in the long term because the Government faces山嶺 bills from private operators.

Bill Spiers, General Secretary of the STUC, said that while the Scottish union movement was opposed in principle to the PFI, it recognised that there may be a way forward with new frameworks guaranteeing working conditions.

"We have to work at constructively as we can within the realities we are faced with," he said. Anne Middleton, STUC President, said it would be wrong to burden a new Scottish parliament with a huge bill for public building.

Labour, however, still faces heavy criticism from union members when the issue is debated on Wednesday. One amendment to a motion opposing the PFI calls for a moratorium on all new projects.

Financial Spreads, a new company based in the Square Mile, will offer betting on a host of financial markets, including the FTSE 100 and Wall Street as well as interest rate futures, government bonds, currencies and commodities.

Compton Hellyer, centre, and Lindsay McNeile, right, who founded Sporting Index seven years ago, have poached six of their eight dealers from IG and City Index.

Mr Hellyer, however, insisted he was not trying to damage his competitors.

"We hope to expand the cake," he said.

## Surveyor issues reform warning

By GAVIN LUMSDEN

PROPERTY surveyors could be swamped by a wave of litigation if the Government's attempts to speed up the homebuying process, according to a leading reinsurer.

Under government proposals set to become law next year, homeowners will have to prepare a "buyer's pack" containing a survey and other details of a property before putting it up for sale. This is expected to cost them between £300 and £500.

Although the reform will create a huge business opportunity for surveyors, it will also open them up to legal action from buyers, sellers and mortgage lenders if things go wrong, according to CNA Re, a reinsurer which pro-

vides professional indemnity insurance.

The company fears a new conveyancing boom could herald a repeat of the late 1980s and early 1990s when insurers ended up paying about £100 million over disputed property valuations. Surveyors' indemnity insurance costs subsequently doubled.

William Green, a vice-president at CNA Re, said surveyors involved in large residential developments were most at risk. They could face claims from buyers if unreported defects later came to light. Sellers could also launch legal claims against surveyors if they thought an overly critical report had blighted the prospects of a sale.

## Fear for small firms in pension reform

THE Confederation of British Industry has warned the Government that its plans for stakeholder pensions will place an unreasonable burden on smaller companies (Gavin Lumnsden writes).

Stakeholder plans are expected to arrive in 2001. They will be designed to be cheap and flexible in order to encourage an extra eight million people to save for their retirement. Companies that do not run pension schemes for their staff will be obliged to choose a stakeholder plan into which employees can pay. Contribu-

tions will be deducted direct from pay by the employer.

The CBI believes that the government proposals will effectively force smaller employers to act as financial advisers to staff although they lack the skills or experience. The organisation says that people should choose their own stakeholder. It wants the Government to set up a clearing house to which employers could direct payment from employees.

The CBI also proposes plans to require all company pension schemes to have trustees. This would raise costs, it says.

## David Lloyd Leisure steps up expansion

THE pace of the development programme at David Lloyd Leisure, Whitbread's health and fitness club division, has been stepped up with the acquisition of the Crest Sports & Leisure Club at Kidbrooke, south-east London, from the receivers (Dominic Walsh writes).

The group has paid an estimated £1.7 million for the club and is planning to spend about £8 million converting it into a fully fledged David Lloyd centre with indoor and outdoor swimming pools and several outdoor tennis courts. The club was repossessed by

Dunbar Bank four years ago after the previous owners ran into financial difficulties. Since then it has been run by BDO Stoy Hayward, which put it up for sale last year through FPD Savills, the property agent.

Since Whitbread acquired David Lloyd Leisure in 1995, for £200 million, the business has been expanded from 13 clubs to 28. In the past year Whitbread has spent about £75 million opening eight new clubs and has a further eight openings in the pipeline over the coming 12 months.

## Laura Ashley seeks US exit

By SARAH CUNNINGHAM

LAURA ASHLEY, the struggling retailer, is attempting to sell its US business, the worst-performing part of the company, in order to appease its bankers.

The company has delayed publication of its full-year figures from last week in order to continue talks with its banks. Its £50 million borrowing agreement is due to expire at the end of this month.

Laura Ashley is believed to have approached a number of potential buyers of the US business, which is thought to be losing as much as £1 million per month.

The Rev Pat Robertson, the American television evangelist and businessman, has recently joined the board of Laura Ashley, which is now dominated by managers from MUI, the Malaysian conglomerate that bailed it out last year.

Laura Ashley's annual results have to be released by the end of April, and the company hopes to be able to announce the sale of its US business at the same time. It has already sold some US stores, and has been left with 130 others.

Ann Iverson, a previous chief executive of Laura Ashley, had a policy of opening large stores in US shopping malls, but they have performed particularly poorly.

**NET PROFITS**  
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ALTERNATIVE INVESTMENT MARKET																										
1999	High	Low	Mkt Cap (million)	Price/peice	Wkly +/−	Ytd %	P/E	1999	High	Low	Mkt Cap (million)	Price/peice	Wkly +/−	Ytd %	P/E	1999	High	Low	Mkt Cap (million)	Price/peice	Wkly +/−	Ytd %	P/E			
111	6%	3.49 10 Gp	111.0 AFA Systems	92	-4	...	...	561	15%	13.50	Dakota Petroleum	28	+1	...	36.7	8	3	Keystone Wts	169	29%	12.50	Premier Direct Opt	187%	...	...	
110	6%	12.10 AFM Corp	94	78	...	...	...	541	52%	7.76	Digital Agents	53	...	...	14.0	141%	13.30	Kingsley Ls	174	...	...	12.50	Putney Group	5%	51.1	
109	91%	6.17 AIA Group	95	61	77	...	...	20%	16%	10.20	Dimension Wts	16	...	...	7.5	58	38	6.02	Lady in Leisure	102	...	20	7.5	Prestige Inv E	330	15
108	93%	4.17 AIA Group	95	24	14	...	...	16%	12%	0.11	Dimension Wts	13	...	...	8.8	84%	65	5.24	Private & Comm	247	...	...	8.8	...	13.8	
107	12%	2.29 Aman Gold	94	2	73	...	...	89%	80%	1.55	Devin Estate	85	+1	2.5	14.5	307	357	21.00	Laurel Group	357	...	2.6	11.8	Palace Hotel Cap	111%	...
106	2%	29.49 Allemagne & Bd	94	20	16.4	...	...	32%	20%	5.50	Devin Estate	29	...	...	14.9	450	71.20	Laurel Group	3750	...	27	3.8	Put n Bars	55	+	
105	34%	10.70 Almyra	94	2	16.4	...	...	20%	19%	2.00	Dobies Group	12	...	...	17.2	141%	14.60	Leisure Park	15	...	1.2	4.4	Pyramid & Arnold	73	23	
104	34%	6.14 Amstel Pub Co	97	74	12.6	...	...	2%	2	1.5	Drinks of Bath	20	...	...	12.0	205	6.10	Leisure Park	305	...	0.4	...	Range Rover	505	151	
103	97%	32.30 Anglo Gen Oil	98	89	42	...	...	150%	38%	47.46	Darleher	150	+205	...	47.3	13%	6.30	Leisure Road	105	...	...	11.50	Range Rover	74	69	
102	89%	2.71 Anglo Welsh	98	8	42	...	...	165	37%	3.48	Deutsche Bawag Sys	102	+225	...	45	75	7.93	Leisure Road	75	...	3.1	10.80	Reptiles 21	72%	41	
101	41%	1.41 Arcoil	98	14	11	...	...	165	69	21.50	Enterprise	79	...	8.1	7.6	146%	13.89	1.03	Leisure Road	146	...	3.8	12.00	Recycling Sols	12%	123
100	7%	2.70 Arcoil	97	77	13.0	...	...	274	57%	5.36	Epic Group	23	+5	...	23.8	53%	1.21	Longmead	33%	...	7.5	16.50	Reptiles 21	14	24.0	
99	13%	6.24 Arcon Re	98	35	45.4	...	...	20%	25%	3.30	Eurostar Mining	23	...	...	10.5	141%	1.72	Longmead	100%	...	5.5	12.50	Racecourse Inc	5	5.0	
98	6%	6.63 Archer Daniels	63	5	1.1	...	...	42%	25%	10.50	Farmer's Coop	25	...	...	12.0	141%	0.00	1.03	Longmead	70%	...	5.5	12.50	Putney Group	55	14.5
97	5%	3.46 Arconic (UK)	63	5	1.1	...	...	42%	25%	10.50	Farster	10	...	...	17.8	55%	6.63	My Sports	10%	...	...	12.50	Putney Group	217%	...	
96	3%	5.47 Arconic (USA)	63	5	1.1	...	...	42%	25%	10.50	Farster	10	...	...	17.8	55%	6.63	Magnum Power	7%	...	...	12.50	Putney Group	87%	...	
95	3%	1.03 Arconic Tord	57	2	2.0	...	...	64%	54%	11.70	Farster	5	+5	2.4	97	267%	6.63	Magnum Power	7%	...	...	12.50	Putney Group	34%	...	
94	4%	10.10 Atlantic Copper	57	5	1.4	...	...	65%	51%	4.00	Farster	5	...	...	12.0	141%	6.63	Magnum Power	6%	...	...	12.50	Putney Group	125%	...	
93	6%	4.56 Atlantic Oil	55	5	1.4	...	...	65%	51%	4.00	Farster	5	...	...	12.0	141%	6.63	Magnum Power	6%	...	...	12.50	Putney Group	125%	...	
92	1%	11.50 ATC Technologies	61	2	8.7	...</td																				



# A tale of one man's fantasy lived to the full

I expect the BBC had rejected "The History Hour" (too short) and "The History Period" (wrong connotations) and they already had a "Comedy Zone". "Zone" sounds hip, futuristic, dangerous, and "Two Hours When We Run All Our Historical Series One After Another" doesn't hit the spot. So we get "The History Zone".

Why stop there? All the environmental programmes could go in "The Ozone Zone". The History Channel could bung its few programmes which are not about warfare into "The Demilitarised Zone". All those wheel-clamping neighbours from hell could go into ITV's "Residents Parking Zone".

"The History Zone" is part of the BBC's return to Reithian values, apparently, but I doubt if the canny old Puritan would have been impressed by this schedule-shuffling and slapping on a sexy new label - rearranging the docu-

mentaries on the *Titanic*, as it were. Programmes must stand or fall on merit.

Ironically, the centrepiece of the first "History Zone" was about a man who changed his name and not only pretended to be, but actually became, something much more interesting than he was in the first place. Grey Owl, The Great White Hoax (BBC2, Friday), the *Timewatch* biography of this remarkable fantasist, would have been worth watching however it was packaged.

Born in 1888 to a mother who was barely 16 and an alcoholic, bankrupt, absent father, Archie Belaney was brought up by disapproving maiden aunts in Hastings. Obsessed by yarns of "Red Indians" he emigrated to Canada at 17 and headed for the wilderness in search of adventure.

His first Native American wife taught him how to fish and trap beaver. Beaver became a central

part of his life, a fact which could lead much puerile ribaldry if this programme is screened in America. He had a natural rapport with animals and could, apparently, "attract a moose". He changed his name to Grey Owl, dyed his skin and, under the influence of his third wife, a Native American called Anaherao, became a proto-ecologist devoted to preserving wildlife.

**A** sked to give a talk in a small town, he became an overnight celebrity and the deception spiralled out of control, with articles, "biographical" books, world and world lecture tours, including an audience at Buckingham Palace.

His neighbours in the Saskatchewan National Park complained that he was a boorish drunkard, and many claimed they realised he was a phoney. His story was so outlandish that it

should have been ludicrous. But it was actually rather inspiring. His career was phenomenal, fear of "b.s.", as one former Mountie put it, and he awakened worldwide interest in environmental issues. The hoax was exposed when he died of pneumonia, alcohol and overwork, but no one was that bothered. He dreamt big and the world dreamt with him.

Not like the poor creatures on

The Matchmaker (BBC1, Friday). All they want is a wealthy, professional, good-looking, self-reliant, lively, fun, committed partner over 5ft 6in, but under women's size 16, who will cherish them and be that very special person.

You might think it would be easier to dress up in buckskin and attract a moose, but that doesn't stop them applying for membership of The Executive Club. This upmarket, elite, exclusive dating agency is for professionals only and strictly no riff-raff.

It was priceless. I can't remember when I last actually enjoyed watching a docusoap. Somewhere along the line the producer/director decided to allow Alun Jenkins, the agency's creator, to do his own narration. This would be a disaster with the professional "characters" in most of these series, but Alun is a very special person.

He is specially oily, specially conceited, manipulative and unaware that he speaks entirely in aspirant lower middle-class clichés. He is also, at 5ft 3½in, especially short and therefore especially ineligible to join his own club.

I suspect this is all a hoax and Alun was specially written for television by Alan Ayckbourn or Mike Leigh.

You are like finding a kingfisher with a broken wing," he tells Julie, 47 and getting a bit desperate. Go on, Alun. I bet you tell that to all the girls. (Later we discover that he does.) The first programme was rivetingly grisly, but I have already seen next week's instalment and it gets much, much worse.

After the acclaim of *Holding On* and his striking adaptation of *Great Expectations*, the writer and gloom-monger Tony Marrant is

back again with *Bad Blood* (ITV, Sunday). Desperate to adopt, a wealthy English doctor and his wife go to Romania and find an orphan brought up in the forest, possibly by devil-worshippers. While there the doctor may have acquired a nasty virus and passed it onto one of his private patients in London.

It is an attempt at contemporary Gothic, playing on our paranoias about blood-borne diseases and our horrified Western guilt about Romanian orphans. The characters' names echo Bram Stoker's *Dracula*, and there are unconvincing Hammer horror stick-ons. Baffled wolves pop up everywhere and the doctor gets dive-bombed by an ominous crow.

Yet it was insidiously gripping. Wasn't it the Bonzo Dog Doo Dah Band who sang "Bad blood is like an egg-stain on your tie; you can pick it, but it won't go away"? How right they were.

## REVIEW



Paul Hoggart

BBC1	
6.00am Business Breakfast (29105)	
7.00 BBC Breakfast News (T) (148884)	
9.00 Kirby (T) (986722)	
9.45 Can't Cook, Won't Cook (T) (298635)	
10.15 The Vanessa Show (T); World Book Day (3643726)	
11.00 News; Weather (T) (5655426)	
11.05 City Hospital (T) (8865155)	
11.55 News; Weather (T) (7394118)	
12.20 Going for a Song (4136105)	
12.25pm Just a Minute New Series, Nicholas Parsons hosts as the classic radio quiz comes to TV (T) (1988682)	
12.55 The Weather Show (T) (11428180)	
1.00 One O'Clock News (T) (41971)	
1.30 Regional News; Weather (58866432)	
1.40 Neighbours: John clashes with his physiotherapist (T) (18024520)	
2.05 Ironside: Killers hold robber's child to ransom in the proceeds of a bank raid (T); World Book Day (1912987)	
2.25 Through the Keyhole (T) (2808242)	
3.25 Children's BBC: Playdays (2845426)	
3.45 Bob the Builder (4935890) 3.55 Wildlife (7980978) 4.00 Badger & Badger (5692074) 4.15 Casper (T) 4.35 50/50 (T) (7233971) 5.00 Newsround (5272088) 5.10 Blue Peter (2106567)	
5.35 Neighbours (T) (148180)	
6.00 Six O'Clock News; Weather (T) (258)	
6.30 Regional News Magazine (388)	



Des Lynam and Mark Lawsonson join Ally McCoist's team (7pm)

7.00 A Question of Sport: Football Pundits Special	Desmond Lyman, Mark Lawsonson, Martin O'Neill and Trevor Brooking take part in a special edition of the sports quiz (T) (2345)
7.30 The Zookeeper's Life with the staff and animals of Paignton Zoo (T) (T) (722)	
8.00 EastEnders: Matthew can't take any more (T) (1093)	
8.30 Ground Force Alan Titchmarsh visits a teenage wheelchair user's garden to make a racetrack for his radio-controlled cars (T) (7600)	
9.00 Nine O'Clock News; Regional News; Weather (T) (464039)	
9.35 Jailbirds Prison Chaplain reflects on the ironies of her job (10/10) (T) (679180)	
10.05 Panorama (T) (163223)	
11.45 Animal Police Steve needs help with an aislant. Last in series (T) (320971)	
11.15 The Morrison Murders (TVM 1998) PREMIERE	Fact-based murder mystery about two young men suspected of cold-bloodedly killing their parents and younger brother. Starring John Corbett and Jonathan Scarfe. Directed by Chris Thompson (T) (103529)
12.45am Weather (104117)	
12.50 BBC News 24 (68044391)	
9.30-9.35 Party Election Broadcast (126535)	
12.45am-12.50 News (T) (1104117)	

9.30-9.35 Party Election Broadcast (126535)

12.45am-12.50 News (T) (1104117)

BBC2	
7.00am Children's BBC Breakfast Show:	Noddy in Toyland (40242) 7.30 Top Cat (8744797) 7.55 Blue Peter (6155890)
8.20 Dastardly and Muttley (T) (4174513)	8.20 Dastardly and Muttley (T) (4174513) 8.55 Small Stories (1822971) 9.00 Daytime On Two: Isabel (4808109) 9.15 Sportsbank (8347600) 9.30 Numberplate (7253615)
9.45 Storytime (T) (718871)	9.45 Storytime (T) (718871) 10.00 Children's BBC: Talesbubbles (91432)
10.30 Daytime On Two: Words and Pictures (3886616)	10.30 Daytime On Two: Words and Pictures (3886616) 10.45 Cats' Eyes (3721971) 11.00 Look and Read (1703060) 11.20 Zig Zag (5259277)
11.40 Landmarks (4833520)	11.40 Landmarks (4833520) 12.05pm Working Lunch (48277) 1.00 Juniper Jungle (38008109)

1.10 Snooker: World Championship	
First-round match, featuring the opening matches of Ken Doherty, Alan Robidoux, Peter Ebdon and James Wattana. Presented by David Vine (A818272)	
6.00 Hit, Miss or Maybe Zoe Ball and guests review three of the latest pop videos (T) (T) (479838)	
6.15 The Simpsons Mr Burns advertises for a son and heir, and it appears that Bart fits the bill (T) (848957)	
6.40 Species 1999 Garry Anderson's sci-fi drama following the adventures of the staff of Moonbase Alpha (T) (T) (842906)	
7.30 Local Heroes Adam Hart-Davis gets on his bike to celebrate Merseyside's unsung pioneers, including the Meccano creator Frank Hornby and the astronomer John Horrocks (T) (T) (304)	

1.50 Catchphrase (T) (727)	
5.30 WEST: Garden Calendar Horticultural tips courtesy of gardening experts Alan and Felicity Down (T) (513)	
5.30 WALES: House in House A young couple's home in Llanrhiany (T) (513)	
5.58 HTV Weather (733548)	
6.00 HTV News (T) (426)	
6.25 WALES: Party Election Broadcast By the United Socialists (350364)	
6.29 Crimestoppers (350364)	
6.30 HTV Evening News; Weather (T) (906)	
7.00 Wish You Were Here? A sailing holiday through the Grenadines, Revello on the Amalfi Coast of Italy, an all-inclusive holiday in the Rhodes resort of Lindos and Legoland in Windsor (T) (4513)	
7.30 Coronation Street It's crunch time for Nick and Leanne (T) (906)	
8.00 Neighbours From Hell Accounts of neighbouring disputes (T) (T) (6161)	
8.30 Cop Shop DS Oliver and his team set out to catch one of the country's most persistent car thieves (T) (T) (905)	
9.00 CHOICE: Butterfly Collectors First in a All-part psychological thriller with Peter Finch (1/2) (T) (4161)	

2.05 The Night Caller (1965) Sci-fi thriller about alien mutants who abduct Earth girls as a means of repopulating their decimated planet. Award-winning drama, starring James Sean and Andie MacDowell. Directed by John Gilling (T) (891778)	
10.35 Video Nation Shorts (T) (413616)	
11.35 Newsnight Round-up of the day's events (T) (233277)	
11.25 The Pull of the City New series exploring the rapid expansion of urban life across the world, beginning with Harvey Molotch's survey of New York (T) (504432) 11.55 Weather (804283)	
12.00 Dispatches Box (79731)	
12.30am BBC Learning Zone: Open University Composing - George Fenton in Conversation with Trevor Herford. 1.00 In the Market Place 1.30 Church and Mosque: Venice and Istanbul 2.00 Schools: Primary PSHE - Ourselves / Health 4.00 Languages. Deutsch Plus 5.00 Business and Training: Skills for Work - Customer Care 5.45 Open University: The Chosen People 6.1B Classical Sculpture and the Enlightenment 6.35 The Bathers by Cézanne and Renoir - Modernism and the Nude	

3.00pm The Rapture (1997) (123161)	
3.00pm The Rapture and the Hostess (1997) (734527) 3.30 Greatest Show on Earth (734528) 3.45 Bad Day (734529) 3.55 First Day (734530) 3.55 First Day (734531) 3.55 First Day (734532) 3.55 First Day (734533) 3.55 First Day (734534) 3.55 First Day (734535) 3.55 First Day (734536) 3.55 First Day (734537) 3.55 First Day (734538) 3.55 First Day (734539) 3.55 First Day (734540) 3.55 First Day (734541) 3.55 First Day (734542) 3.55 First Day (734543) 3.55 First Day (734544) 3.55 First Day (734545) 3.55 First Day (734546) 3.55 First Day (734547) 3.55 First Day (734548) 3.55 First Day (734549) 3.55 First Day (734550) 3.55 First Day (734551) 3.55 First Day (734552) 3.55 First Day (734553) 3.55 First Day (734554) 3.55 First Day (734555) 3.55 First Day (734556) 3	



**PROFILE 48**  
Behind the  
scenes at  
Misys

# BUSINESS

BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft

MONDAY APRIL 19 1999

**SEARCH 50**  
Roger Bootle  
on the hunt  
for inflation

## EU tax threat to eurobonds remains unresolved

By ROBERT LEA

THE City's trillion-pound eurobond industry is becoming increasingly edgy over its future, after a meeting of European finance ministers at the weekend closed with a conclusion to the thorny issue of withholding tax no nearer.

While Gordon Brown, the Chancellor, attempted to strike an upbeat note after the Ecofin meeting in Dresden, British officials admit-

ted: "We are an extremely long way from finding a working definition which would be acceptable to what we are doing."

Mr Brown said after the meeting: "We have always said we will do everything to advance the eurobond market in the United Kingdom and that we will not agree to any directive that imposes a specific solution for eurobonds."

What is at issue is a draft EU directive on investments which would put a minimum 20 per cent

tax on interest income on bank accounts or securities held within the EU by EU residents.

Meanwhile, Mario Monti, the outgoing European Tax Commissioner, said: "The crucial new element was that many member states have said they are in favour of working towards a specific solution for eurobonds."

What is at issue is a draft EU directive on investments which would put a minimum 20 per cent

tax on interest income on bank accounts or securities held within the EU by EU residents.

Such a tax would hobble the City of London as the pre-eminent market in eurobonds and would hit tens of thousands of jobs in the Square Mile. The business is likely to migrate rapidly to Switzerland.

The failure to announce any developments on the issue is already taking its toll of the market, according to Tim Dickenson, spokesman

for the International Securities Market Association.

"There are signs that investors are beginning to insist that [bond] issuers appoint paying agents that are outside of the EU," said Mr Dickenson. "The continued uncertainty means that it is highly likely that trend will continue."

Having a paying agent — the bank through which the coupon, or interest, on a bond is paid — located offshore or in Switzerland could

ensure that if the withholding tax directive comes in, those particular bonds would remain exempt.

City leaders are privately arguing that the lack of news out of Dresden is because there is a genuine impasse over a tax which on the one hand Britain and Luxembourg implacably oppose and which on the other hand could be riddled with loopholes if concessions are granted.

After the Ecofin meeting, Luc

Frieden, Luxembourg's Budget Minister, said: "There was no agreement within the Ecofin, either to exclude eurobonds or to affirm that there had been an agreement to exclude a certain number of eurobonds."

Treasury officials were unable to confirm what status the discussions on withholding tax would have at next month's Ecofin meeting.

Leading article, page 23

## City bets on counter-bid for Asda

By SARAH CUNNINGHAM, RETAIL CORRESPONDENT

CITY investors who were busy late on Friday bunting on Kingfisher's agreed offer for Asda flushing out a higher bidder are likely to learn quickly whether they have bet wisely.

Asda's share price shot to 4 per cent above the value of Kingfisher's all-share agreed offer on Friday on expectations of a counter-bid. Other potential bidders have been identified as Wal-Mart of the US, Carrefour of France or Ahold of The Netherlands, but it is believed that they will have to come forward sooner rather than later.

Asda and Kingfisher publish the details of the deal, which they are billing as a merger, today and they hope to have it completed by the end of June.

Kingfisher insiders were irritated that the deal was being interpreted as Asda being sold on the cheap. Before Asda's price rose on Friday, and Kingfisher's fell, the deal offered a 12.2 per cent premium to Asda shareholders.

"There had to be a premium because Asda's share price had been depressed by the Competition Commission re-

ferral into trading in the whole supermarket sector," said one insider.

"We had to agree terms that reflect the real value of Asda, so it could not be nil premium. But the idea is that Asda shareholders will be investing in the future growth of the enlarged business."

Kingfisher and Asda will today seek to persuade the City that the reasons for the merger are compelling. Growth would initially come from such changes as putting Asda's George-branded clothing into high street branches of Woolworth's, which is part of Kingfisher. Goods from other Kingfisher chains, such as Comet, B&Q and Superdrug will begin to be sold in branches of Asda.

Sir Geoffrey Mulcahy, who will remain chief executive of Kingfisher, and Allan Leighton, who is chief executive of Asda and will be Sir Geoffrey's deputy, will also argue that the merged company would have better leverage with suppliers, which should lead to about £100 million of synergy benefits. Because there is little overlap, cost savings would be much less, at

about £40 million to £60 million. The enlarged group's strong balance sheet and cashflow should allow Kingfisher to continue the expansion of its electrical and DIY arms in Europe.

The deal could also allow Kingfisher to go further with its Big W out-of-town stores.

The stores, the first of which is to be opened soon near Edinburgh, are intended to be effectively very large branches of Woolworth's but which also sell goods from Comet, B&Q and Superdrug.

Although the intention has been to put in adult clothing and fast food from outside companies, George clothing and Asda food could be incorporated to create the nearest thing in Britain to a Wal-Mart store. Wal-Mart's highly successful formula has made it the largest retailer in the world.

In the longer run, Kingfisher would hope to export Big W-style stores to emerging markets. Tesco, the UK market leader, is opening hypermarkets in Eastern Europe, Thailand and South Korea. It is expected to open up in Malaysia and Taiwan soon. Wal-Mart and Carrefour, Ahold and a number of other continental operators have also been busily opening hypermarkets in the Third World.



A model parading Virgin fashion for a Selfridges campaign to boost designer fashion sales

### Designs on lifting fashion sales at Selfridges

By SARAH CUNNINGHAM

SELFRIDGES is attempting to boost sales of its designer clothing with a series of catwalk shows to be held this week at its London and Manchester stores.

Models wearing the spring/summer collections from Versace V12, Virgin, Miu Miu, Clements Ribeiro, Joseph and Ronit Zilkha, among others, will be on parade.

Selfridges has said that sales at its Oxford Street store picked up sharply in February and March. Like-for-like growth was up 6 per cent on a year earlier, and total sales growth was 13 per cent, including the reopening of some refurbished areas of the store, Manchester, which opened for business at Trafford Park last year, was also reported to be trading well.

Whether other retailers' efforts to spur trade after a dreadful winter season have begun to pay off should become evident on Thursday, when the official March retail sales figures are published. Indications for March from British Retail Consortium sales data and the CBI distribution trades survey were positive.

On Tuesday, the retail price index figures for March are to be published. HSBC Securities thinks that retailers have been attempting to rebuild margins after cutting prices hard at the turn of the year in a desperate attempt to boost sales. In terms of inflation, this is likely to be offset by the recent cuts in mortgage rates.

### Bidding battle likely for First Choice

By DOMINIC WALSH

FIRST CHOICE HOLIDAYS, which last month unveiled a £1.5 billion merger with Kuoni of Switzerland, could find itself at the centre of a bidding war involving Europe's biggest tour operators.

In recent days, speculation has been mounting that Airtours is preparing to gatecrash the Kuoni merger by launching a hostile all-share counter-bid worth 220p-230p a share.

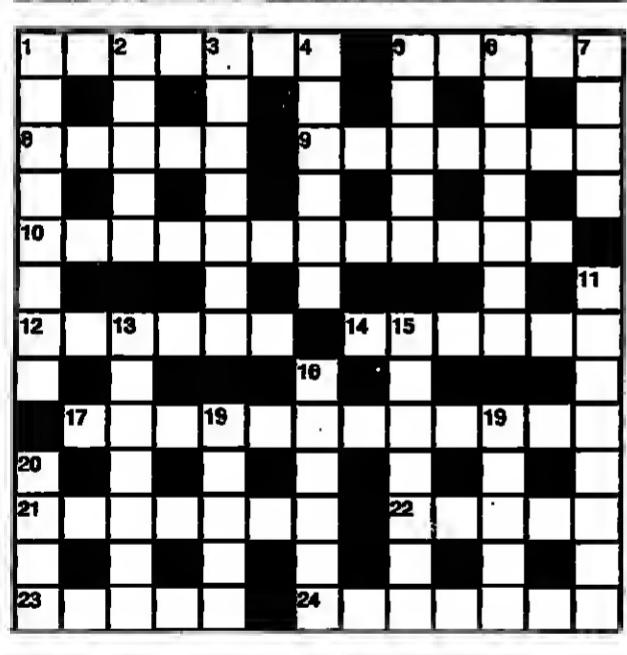
However, there were indications last night that both Thomson Travel Group, the UK's market leader, and Preussag of Germany, which controls Thomas Cook, were considering how to block the expected move from David Crossland, the Airtours chairman. Preussag, which through Thomas Cook holds 14 per cent of First Choice, could launch a bid, although Thomson would face huge competition hurdles.

Ian Clapp, First Choice chairman, yesterday cautioned: "It seems improbable to me that the major Airtours competitors would be happy to let David Crossland proceed without themselves considering bidding as well, and that's before taking account of the substantial regulatory issues."

He said that a bid would represent a reckless gamble for Mr Crossland as it would inevitably lead to a competition inquiry, weakening First Choice during its crucial summer trading period.

Airtours, which failed in an attempt to buy First Choice in 1993, declined to comment.

### TIMES TWO CROSSWORD



No 1695

ACROSS

- 1 Pastoral; of country life (7)
- 5 Marvelous (*slang*): an extra (5)
- 8 Prestige (5)
- 9 Quivering with energy (7)
- 10 (Learned) in painless fashion (7,5)
- 12 Flippancy (6)
- 14 Clandestine: a thicket (6)
- 17 Covered in bruises (5,3,4)
- 21 Zonks his king once (7)
- 22 Factory: install (eg spy) (5)
- 23 Smarten, admire oneself (5)
- 24 Cockney area of London (4,3)

DOWN

- 1 Derby: town, its pudding (8)
- 2 Trainee: junior family (branch) (5)
- 3 Suffice, endure, to end (4,3)
- 4 Hole (in eg tooth) (6)
- 5 Cavalryman's sword (5)
- 6 US open plain (7)
- 7 (Habitual) repetition (4)
- 11 Bore witness (to) (8)
- 13 With much to say (7)
- 15 He married his mother (Gk myth) (7)
- 16 Wild, violent (6)
- 18 Principle: genuine oeuvre (5)
- 19 (Permission) to go (5)
- 20 Speak gratingly: a tool (4)

SOLUTION TO NO 1694

ACROSS: 1 Kiss of death 7 Cynic 8 Parfair 10 Sideshow 11 Kiwi 13 Anchor 15 Floral 17 Tusk 18 Palpably 21 Drivers 22 Adieu 23 Thomas Hardy DOWN: 1 Kick-started 2 Synod 3 Occasion 4 Deploy 5 Aire 6 Heavier 9 Trial by Jury 12 Slapdash 14 Casuist 16 Nausea 19 Briar (Brier) 20 Nero

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## Li Ka-shing is entrepreneur of millennium

WITH less than two weeks to go to enter the Entrepreneur of the Year competition, a panel of experts from *The Times* and Ernst & Young has adjudicated on who is the Entrepreneur of the Millennium.

From Cosimo de Medici to Bill Gates, from Henry Ford to Richard Arkwright, 15 entrepreneurs in all were assessed.

The winner is Li Ka-shing, a Hong Kong serial entrepreneur and creator of three business empires. An entrepreneur with no advantage in life but his wits, he was born in a troubled China in 1928, arrived in Hong Kong at 11 and left school soon after. Making plastic toys won him fame, property speculation brought fortune. Status came with buying two traditionally British-controlled companies, Hong Kong Electric and Hutchison Whampoa, creator of Orange.

Mr Li is worth about £5 billion. Any one of his careers would make him a great entrepreneur. All three make him the greatest of the millennium. □ *Entrepreneur of the Year: 0845 6041012 or www.ey.co.uk*



Li: three business empires  
ENTREPRENEUR OF THE YEAR

### Composer can call the tune

Lord Lloyd-Webber, the composer, has taken 100 per cent control of Really Useful, his theatrical production and copyright holding business, buying the 30 per cent that he did not own from Universal Music for \$75 million (£46 million).

As Andrew Lloyd Webber, he floated Really Useful in the 1980s, but he took it private at the end of the decade with the help of PolyGram, which paid \$10 million for the start. It came under the control of Universal after Seagram bought PolyGram last year.

Rankin post

Sir Alick Rankin, former chairman of Scottish & Newcastle and of General Accident, has emerged as the senior non-executive director at the soon-to-be floated Anglo American. Sir Alick will be deputy chairman of the South African mining company when it lists in London.

KKR in frame

Kohlberg Kravis Roberts, the US buyout specialist, is emerging as favourite to buy Astrazeneca's specialty chemicals business for about £1.6 billion. Zeneca put the business up for sale last autumn before the merger with Astra.

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## Church to unload BAe

BY OUR CITY STAFF

THE Church of England is to dump, for ethical reasons, more than two million shares that it will hold in British Aerospace after the completion of its purchase of GEC's Marconi Electronics Systems division.

The Church's investment policy prevents it buying shares in companies with weapons as a "major" part of their

business. But it will end up with a chunk of Britain's biggest arms company when the Marconi deal is clinched. Under the terms of the deal, GEC investors will receive 42 BAe shares for every 100 GEC shares they own. The Church has nearly 5.5 million GEC shares worth £25 million.

Arun Kataria, spokesman for the Church Commissioners, said: "BAe is pretty well entit-

ed to the armament